

The Middlebury Campus

Vol. 109, No. 23

Thursday, April 21, 2011

Since 1905

Hundreds travel to D.C. for Powershift

By Kathryn DeSutter
News Editor

On April 15-18, over 200 students traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the climate conference Powershift 2011. The conference — which attracted over 10,000 students from across the country — presented a diverse line-up of events and culminated in a march on Capitol Hill calling for a permanent legislation to address climate change.

The conference opened on Friday, April 15 with keynote speeches by former Vice President Al Gore and former Special Advisor to the White

House for Green Jobs Van Jones. Although some Middlebury students missed Gore's speech due to traffic, students arrived in time to hear Jones and several other leaders in the field address the crowd in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Students arrived at the convention center Saturday morning to participate in movement-building training and planning sessions. These sessions were designed to address issues that universities face in mobilizing both students and administrators to take climate action.

Saturday evening, students attended another line-up of keynote speakers. 350.org Founder and Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben spoke at the convention center along with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson.

According to Ben Johnston '11, McKibben's speech was "definitely the climax of the keynote ceremony.



Courtesy

Students from across the country descended on Washington, D.C. last weekend to campaign for climate policy.

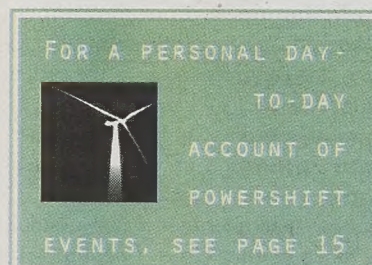
Looking at him and talking to him beforehand, he doesn't seem like the kind of guy to move a crowd, but he really took the cake."

On Sunday, students continued their work on movement-building in the morning and then broke off into groups organized by state in the af-

ternoon. The evening's programming featured a film series and additional training sessions for activists.

Although some students left D.C. on Sunday afternoon, others remained in the capital through Monday to march to Capitol Hill. Over 5,000 students gathered at LaFayette

Square in the morning and walked to the Capitol building. According to the Powershift website, students "demand[ed] that the President and Congress stand up to Big Polluters, protect the Clean Air Act and make corporate polluters like BP pay for their pollution."



H.I.P. sparks student discussion

By Salena Casha
Staff Writer

On April 24 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Gamut Room, Be H.I.P. (Highly Informed People) and Get H.I. (Highly Informed) will host an event featuring discussions on the current situation in the Middle East. The featured student panel, organized by student leaders Toby Israel '14 and Mariam Boxwala '13, will include 10-minute presentations focused on politics, geography, religion, history, economics and women's and gender studies concerning the Middle East. The panel will be followed by an open question and answer discussion along with a more informal discussion.

Israel began the "Be H.I.P." event series during Winter Term with a daylong discussion on different current events going on in the world. The idea for a student panel-

led discussion came to her after she attended the J-street Youth rally in New York in November.

"We were driving back up to campus at one in the morning," she said, "and we were all exhausted and we found ourselves talking about the Israel and Palestine conflict."

The organic dialogue between students who had a wide range of experience and knowledge about the conflict sparked her interest immediately.

"At the time, I didn't see the event turning into a series," Israel added. But with the new and recent developments in the Middle East, she found herself seeing the current events as a new opportunity for a Be H.I.P. panel to be beneficial and necessary. Be H.I.P., as Toby envisions it, will provide an open forum in which current events can be discussed among students.

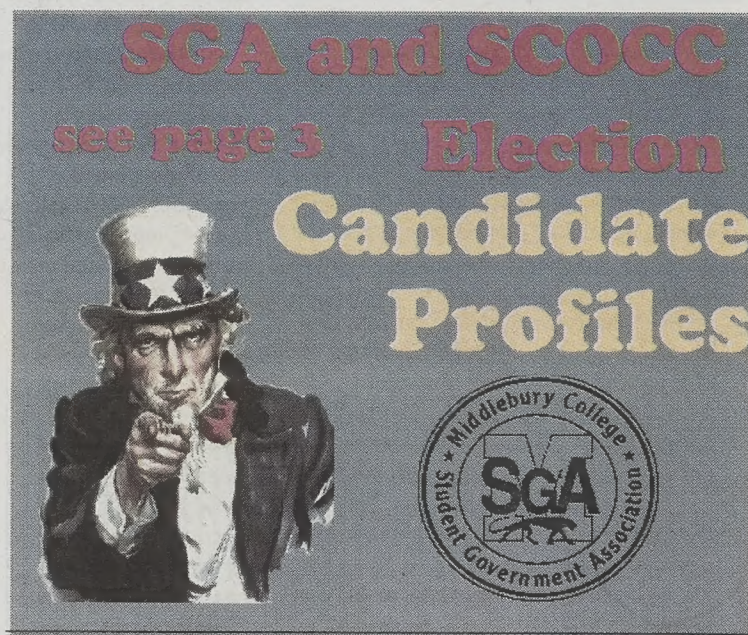
The forum, Boxwala said, will be unique to the other educational events at the College.

"We have several opportunities on campus to attend lectures by professors, authors and researchers who are experts in their field," she said. "However, these lectures can be daunting and often difficult to understand for those of us who have very little experience in the subject area."

Be H.I.P. instead seeks to provide accessibility for students presented by students. The presentations are created with the assumption that the audience has basic knowledge at best in such areas.

"I think Be H.I.P. is filling a void in the Middlebury community and getting students to interact and expand their knowledge with

SEE HIP, PAGE 4



Sexual assault policy changes

Kylie Atwood
Staff Writer

On April 10, the Sexual Assault Oversight Committee (SAOC) presented a new sexual misconduct policy to the Student Government Association (SGA). This presentation was part of SAOC's attempt to get student feedback on the policies they hope to implement in Fall 2011.

"There is no question that the small number of cases that are officially reported each year does not tell the whole story," said Karen Guttentag, associate dean of the College and chair of the SAOC.

SAOC members believe it is important to work transparently to create policies that are sensitive towards the anxiety students feel when involved in sexual as-

sault cases. Thus, there are many changes on the docket.

A major change will be the disposal of required in-person hearings before a board of eight people. This situation can be unsettling for students who do not feel comfortable sharing their story with a large group of strangers.

Instead of eight-person hearings, a professional investigator will meet with the complainant, respondent and witnesses in one-on-one meetings. The investigator will be trained in sexual assault issues and will present the case to the board members of SAOC who will request further investigation or make a decision on the case. If they wish, those involved will be able speak to the board members but they will not be required to do

SEE SAOC, PAGE 4



Sopheak Chheng

STUDENTS SHOWCASE TALENT

On Friday, April 15 students enjoyed a day off from classes and attended the Student Research Symposium. Students presented their independent work through the media of posters, presentations and artistic performances.

this week



Robed genius

Find out what's behind the beard of this week's campus character, pg 14.



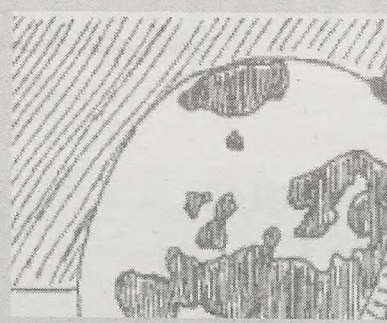
Vermont on the rocks

Learn the story behind the award-winning whiskey pig company, pg 6.

Find Synergy

Graduating seniors dance their way out of Middlebury, pg 17.





overseas briefing

by Isabel Howard '11.5

PARIS — Out of all the things I was expecting to be different when I went to France, I never thought I would have to consider my *Nalgene*. I thought about bringing chic clothes, because the Parisians definitely dress up. I thought about drinking wine at every meal, because the French love their wine. I thought about doing lots of things to avoid standing out as "The American" — but I never thought about my *Nalgene*.

My *Nalgene* has been a great companion to me these past couple of years. I'm rarely seen without my *Nalgene*. When I first came to Middlebury, my *Nalgene* immediately made me feel like a member of the club. I could go on real Midd Kid hiking trips. I could put my drinks in it for pre-gaming. Wherever I went, my *Nalgene* went with me.

It followed me to Prague, where I spent my first study abroad semester with NYU. With all the granola-y backpacker kids passing through this semi-out-of-the-way city, my *Nalgene* and I blended right in. There were dreadlocks and threadbare clothes to spare in Prague, and the *Nalgene* fit right in. My *Nalgene* was a great voyager; it had a great time.

And then, suddenly, after I arrived in Paris for my spring semester, I discovered something terrible: my *Nalgene* shocks the French. It happened one night at dinner during my first week in Paris as I went to fill up my *Nalgene* at the sink in my host family's kitchen. Just as I turned on the water, my host dad exclaimed, "Mais c'est quoi, ça?" he asked. What is that? "Uhh..." I replied. "It's a water bottle." "Mais" he said, looking at it quizzically, "c'est pas très erotique, non?"

My mind did a double take. Not very erotic? My *Nalgene*? Who would ever even consider a *Nalgene* erotic in the first place? I was dumbfounded — but then, as I had learned to do, I put myself in the place of a French person. Oh yes, I see it now. Big, green, plastic-y. Definitely not very erotic.

"Well, you're right, it's not very chic is it? I can put it under the table if that's better," I said. "Yes," he answered as he poured our carafe of wine, "maybe that's a good idea. It's a strange-looking thing, isn't it." So the *Nalgene* went under the table for dinner, and I laughed a little to myself throughout the entire meal.

Of course my *Nalgene* would upset the French. The *Nalgene* is the opposite of all that is French. The French, who adore luxury, fine goods, and high fashion. The French, who are known for being sensual, natural people who can talk for hours about lingerie and delectable snails.

At Middlebury, seeing someone drink out of a *Nalgene* is a perfectly common, everyday experience. But suddenly, in Paris, I found myself feeling self-conscious. If I was on the metro, I thought, should I pull out my *Nalgene*? Just take a sip, since I'm thirsty, or should I wait until I'm in the privacy of my own home?

But isn't that the whole idea of studying abroad? They welcome us into their country to learn a little about them — and we, in turn, teach them a little about us. If I keep my *Nalgene* to myself on the metro, I look more French. But if I take it out, I offer the people a glimpse into a life they might not have known about before — the life of a Midd Kid, of a non-erotic water-drinker. That's what study abroad is all about.

So I decided to keep drinking out of my *Nalgene*. The French people would try to pretend they weren't staring. It's ok, though — what's important is that we're all learning, one snail, one hamburger, and one *Nalgene* at a time.

Middbrief Old Chapel to add extra reading day to finals

by Kathryn DeSutter, News Editor

In an all-campus email sent last Thursday, the College announced the addition of one reading day to the exam schedule, effective beginning with the fall exam schedule of 2011.

"The change is designed to provide more flex in what feels like a very compressed week of exams," explained Vice President for Administration Tim Spears.

The additional day will fall on a Thursday, allowing for a one day break in the middle of the exam period.

In addition to relieving students' stress, the policy also aims to create a better schedule for the release of fall term grades.

"Students were receiving their fall grades at the beginning of Winter Term, which meant that students who earned failing

grades and were required to take time off had to turn around and go home," wrote Spears in an email.

Under the new calendar, faculty will be required to submit grades earlier and students will receive them before returning to campus for the winter term.

Faculty members hope that the added day will give students a more adequate time frame to work on assignments and study for exams.

"Some faculty feel that the quality of student work has diminished since the College shortened the exam period a couple years ago," wrote Spears in an email.

Faculty Council voted to shorten the exam period from nine to six days in February 2009, and the policy took effect during

the fall semester of 2009.

Spears also commented that the addition of an extra day in the academic calendar will have a "negligible" effect on College finances.

The decision was made with the input of the Student Government Association (SGA) and Faculty Council. Spears explained that after a discussion within these bodies and the academic administration, the proposition was sent to the Calendar Committee.

"By the time the matter got to the Calendar Committee, it had the support of all who had discussed it," wrote Spears. "The question for the Calendar Committee was whether revising the calendar in this way was logistically possible. It was, and so we made the change."

Academic jury still out on Wikipedia

By Kyle Finck

NEWS EDITOR

Over the years, Wikipedia has remained one of the most used and controversial sources available to students at the College.

In 2007, the history department attracted national attention and controversy by banning Wikipedia as a credible source in papers. The department-issued statement also mandated that the policy be printed on all syllabi and senior thesis instructions.

"Wikipedia is not an acceptable citation," said the statement.

"Students are responsible for the accuracy of information they provide, and they cannot point to Wikipedia or any similar source that may appear in the future to escape the consequences of errors."

Neil Waters, Kawashima professor of Japanese studies, proposed the policy after catching the same historical error in six final papers for his "History of Early Japan" class. He says all of the mistakes were easily traced back to Wikipedia.

But according to Waters, most of the controversy over the policy was unwarranted, based on the misconception that the history department was banning Wikipedia.

He says he received both hate mail and fan mail.

"People said I was the dinosaur trying to kill Wikipedia," he said. "This was not a war on Wikipedia ... This was a ban on a particular use — citation of Wikipedia in research papers. That distinction often got lost."

Provost and Executive Vice President and Professor of English and American Literatures Alison Byerly says that Wikipedia is only a starting place.

"Students have access to an enormous range of resources on the internet," she said in an email. "We hope that at Middlebury, they will learn to distinguish between sites like Wikipedia, that may provide a useful general introduction to a subject, and scholarly resources that offer a more detailed, informed perspective."

At the time of the ban, the site had 1.6 million entries in its English edition. Today, it has more than 3.6 million English entries.

"I normally try to avoid Wikipedia in general," said history major Andrew Lind '13 in an email. "But sometimes I use it to just get an overview of the whole topic and give me a place to start at."

Lind says that while most history classes do not explicitly give the department's Wikipedia rule, they don't have to.

"I haven't seen the department's Wiki-

pedia code on any syllabi and none have addressed it in any classes I have been in so far," he said in an email. "I think it is something that teachers feel doesn't need to be stated out loud and can just be assumed by the students."

Waters says that while Wikipedia's historical entries have improved, they are still unreliable. He says the fact that anyone can edit entries without giving their name creates an inherent lack of accountability.

"Entries are subject to various degrees of editing, depending on the field and on the popularity of the entry," he said. "And you still

don't know who the editors are. In my field of Japanese history, mistakes come up frequently."

But Jason Mittell, associate professor of American studies and chair of film and media culture, says that the amount of editorial revisions is one thing that makes Wikipedia great.

"I'm really skeptical of this default assumption that if it's online, it hasn't gone through standard editorial process

and must be inaccurate," he said. "I have a wall full of books here ... I'm sure there are inaccuracies in them that slipped through the process."

Mittell says that while an entry could be 100 percent wrong in theory, there are safeguards against such vandalism. Mittell says there are "bots" which scan the site for obviously flawed revisions to entries.

"If there's something that, for example takes a 10,000 word article and turns it into a 50 word article, the bot will automatically revert the article back to the original," he said. "They also scan for certain words that may be potential acts of vandalism."

In addition, Mittell says that editors tie their usernames to a "watch list" of entries, and are alerted when any changes occur.

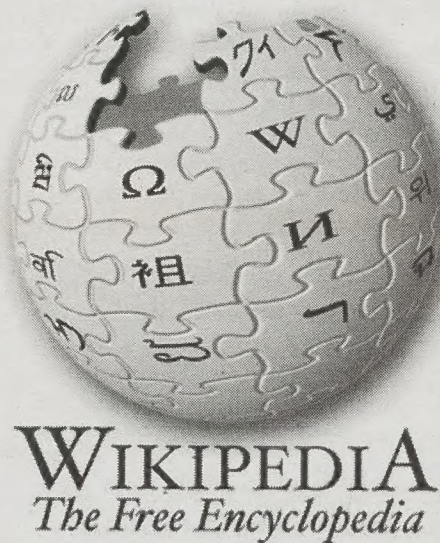
"You have people who are shepherd to given articles," he said. "There are so many dedicated editors that it prevents most vandalism."

But Waters says he still favors traditional encyclopedias — like Britannica — over Wikipedia for general reliability.

"I admit I do have a built in bias towards them [traditional encyclopedias] because there is a vetting process and nobody is putting in a false name and everybody is responsible for what they write," he said.

Mittell says the traditional academic vetting system of "filter then publish" is too slow because it must go through numerous hurdles before publication.

"It's counter-intuitive to most people, es-



Wikipedia remains a controversial academic source.

Courtesy



MCAB PRESENTS
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDD?

COOK COMMONS PRESENTS...

LOST DOG POLICE SQUAD

THURSDAY// 8 P.M. - 10 P.M. //

THE CROSSROADS CAFE // PURPLE

SMOOTHIES, PURPLE CUPCAKES,

POPCORN CHICKEN AND FREE DRINKS

// 21+ ID's // A RELAY FOR LIFE

FUNDRAISER

FFF: THE TOURIST

FRIDAY// 7 P.M. AND 10 P.M. //

AUDITORIUM

SEPOMANA

FRIDAY// 8 P.M. - 10 P.M. //

MCCULLOUGH SOCIAL SPACE // \$5

ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR

DUBNIGHT WITH THERAPIST

SATURDAY// 10:30 P.M. - 2 A.M. //

COLTRANE LOUNGE

Community Council Student Co-Chair & SGA Presidential Elections

meet your candidates

Elections for student co-chair of Community Council (SCOCC) and the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) will run until noon on Friday. The student co-chair of Community Council serves as the co-head of a body composed of administrators, faculty, staff and students that make decisions to address and often change College policy. SGA presidents oversee a cabinet and a senate of students that seek to implement initiatives based on student input. Still on the fence? Check out the candidate interviews below!

Questions by Jeremy Kallan, Staff Writer

- (1) Tell us about yourself. What are you involved with on campus?
- (2) What is your experience with student government? Why do you think you are a good candidate?
- (3) If you are elected, what will be your primary goals? What issues do you feel need to be addressed?
- (4) How do you plan to keep the student body informed on what is going on in the SGA?

Community Council

Janet Rodrigues '12



(1) I am a Junior political science major from Brooklyn, New York. I am currently a member of Community Council, the Institutional Diversity Committee, the Student Advisory Board of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity and founder of The Trunk. I am fascinated by our community and believe we all carry unbelievable power over each other's well-being.

(2) I have also been a voting member of Community Council for the past two years. This past semester I have been committed to addressing the issue of dishes, working with the Council, members of the community and dining services in order to seek sustainable solutions. Additionally, I have sat at the table of Community Council for the past two years and am confident I will be able to provide consistency and the continuation of issues that have come up over the years.

(3) My primary goal is to welcome all voices to those who are not already sitting at the table and to keep an open mind to all ideas. I am committed to addressing the workload through Pass/Fail classes. I hope to address vandalism, dorm damages and dish loss.

(4) Community Council has a website where we post the members, our agenda and minutes of each meeting. The *Campus* attends each meeting, which has been a wonderful way to disseminate information. My role will always be to share my experience on Community Council.

Tik Root '12



(1) I am a rising senior from Ripton, VT. and Ski Patrol member. Because environmental issues have been a passion for pretty much my entire life, and I feel that paper is unnecessary amount of paper are used on election campaigns, I will again be running a paperless campaign.

(2) I have worked with the SGA as a first-year senator and, sophomore year as director of membership on the SGA cabinet, served as a Community Council member, was the founding co-chair of the student LIS advisory committee and have served on various other committees and groups.

(3) If elected I will certainly continue to address diversity issues that the Council started this year, but really want to turn more attention toward social life on campus. It is long past time to conduct a thorough review of the social life at Middlebury and how college policies can be adapted to meet student desires, specifically with regards to housing and the alcohol policy. Students feel that they are forced to jump through hoops driving drinking "underground." The first item in need of fixing is the party registration system.

(4) I plan on strengthening weak link between Community Council and the SGA and then relying heavily on the SGA publicity committee to spread the word to students. Two other easy ways to strengthen the link are to, one, have the SCOCC actually show up to SGA senate meeting like they're supposed to (I plan on doing this), and appointing an SGA senator to the Council.

Kevin Broussard '12



(1) I'm from New Iberia, Louisiana and I took accent reduction classes in high school. Depending on when you catch me, you'll have a different take on if it was time well spent.

(2) This is my second year serving on Community Council. As Community Council is a committee of students, staff and faculty charged with making non-academic policy recommendations to the President of the College; it's a very serious task. As a representative of the student body, I believe that it's necessary to keep an open mind and to remember that I'm not serving to represent myself.

(3) My platform has five major goals: meaningful student self-governance (including the addition of students on the College's Board of Trustees), a pass/fail option for courses, need-blind admissions for international students, reforming the judicial boards and sanctions and promoting collaboration amongst student groups. Furthermore, I'd like to work towards students realizing their own power in a way that would allow them to effectively use it; student empowerment is key to my campaign.

(4) Via a blog, which would detail the issues, list some arguments for/against and allow for the student body to comment. Also, we could even have polls on the site for the resolutions that we're voting on just to see what the students think on the issue.

SGA President

Riley O'Rourke '12



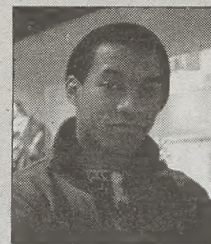
(1) I am a junior political science major from New York City, but I grew up spending a lot of time in Vermont. Besides the SGA, I am on the MCAB speakers committee. I want to be SGA president again so I can build on my existing accomplishments while working to achieve new ones in order to make student life as great as possible.

(2) One of my greatest assets as a candidate will be my experience as a member of student government. Besides serving as SGA President this year, I was the Cook Commons senator last year. During my term the SGA has strived to both pick up services the college discontinued and establish new ones.

(3) Expand and perfect the airport bus program I set up this year. By the end of this school year you will be able to buy tickets for any break next year. Increase Grille hours further and work to get the room itself open 24/7 to serve as a social space. Establish small gyms on the north-side of campus for convenience and to alleviate crowding in the main facility.

(4) I have taken steps this year to create an SGA website available at go/sga. On this site are the names of all senators and the minutes of the meetings and the bills and resolutions we pass. If elected, next year I will have weekly open meetings in the Grille to solicit ideas from the student body.

Dane Verret '12



(1) I'm currently a junior majoring in English and American Studies with a focus in Creative Writing. I identify myself as Black, or African-American. On campus I'm involved with several projects, mainly Verbal Onslaught Open Mic, which I host, and Distinguished Men of Color (DMC) where I've been president for almost three years. I'm also a member of Middlebury Capoeira Club, and a former FYC.

(2) My experience with student government is as a member of its most important group: the student body. What makes me a strong candidate for president is that I'm pro-active and love to help people realize their personal goals. I also love to connect people with similar interests and passions.

(3) If elected, my primary goals will be: fighting for need-blind financial aid for International students, using student researchers and entrepreneurs to solve Dining Hall traffic issues as well as economic issues. Finally, I want to address the lack of new academic majors programs that would make Middlebury more competitive as an institution.

(4) To that end: The *Campus*, Facebook updates, Twitter, SGA newsletters, Verbal Onslaught and other arts events. I want to keep people informed by making frequent announcements in the dining hall, through face-to-face information sharing and by placing schedules of SGA meetings around campus.

Vin Recca '12



(1) I am a junior Poli Sci major from New York City. I am a proud member of the Mill, the Newman Club and the SGA Finance Committee. I am running as President partly to thank the community and the College for my experiences and to ensure that future students are able to enjoy and grow as much as I do.

(2) I have been actively involved with Student Government for my entire Middlebury career. Freshman year I joined the SGA finance committee. Sophomore year I was elected senator for the Class of 2012. During my sophomore year, I was also on the Comprehensive Fee Committee. Working with the SGA over the past three years, I know firsthand the potential that the SGA has.

(3) As President, my first priority will be to revitalize the SGA's image by holding monthly town hall meetings. Some of the most important policies that I will pursue are the implementation of a pass/fail system for classes taken outside of the major, extending or eliminating the drop period entirely and the addition of new majors (Hindi, Peace and Conflict Studies, Africana).

(4) As president, I hope to make the SGA a powerful force for change on this campus. In my administration, all SGA meetings will be videotaped and linked to the SGA website. In addition to the town halls, I will hold monthly office hours, as will all of my Cabinet members.



beyond the bubble

by Bronwyn Oatley
Staff Columnist

One month has now passed since the United States and its European allies commenced a bombing campaign in Libya, designed to repel the forces of Colonel Gaddafi. Since the beginning of the intervention, the Allied nations have attempted to provide air and naval support to the rebel forces fighting against the dictatorial regime.

When confronted, many coalition political leaders are also quick to justify the legitimacy of their campaign. They readily cite the United Nations resolution that permitted the "humanitarian intervention" in the first place, and note that coalition is employing many of the resources provided by the NATO military system.

While it is easy to get caught up in such prophetic language and commend the early successes of the mission, one must be careful to consider the long-term prospects of such a mission.

In a lecture at Middlebury College March 24, *Foreign Affairs* editor Gideon Rose argued that the United States government is committing the same errors in Libya that presidents have been committing for generations. Comparing the current Libya intervention to the intervention in the Gulf War in 1990, the editor argued that the Obama administration has not appropriately considered the long-term implications of the initial bombing campaign.

Rather than considering what type of government would be desired, who would rule the country and how the military might function after the major combat ends, the United States government and their allies have instead allowed themselves to be controlled by the moral imperative of the attack against civilians by a corrupt ruler.

While it is difficult to fault a government for trying to save lives, such a failure to outline positive and realistic goals seems a gross miscalculation.

In that same line of thought, having a UN sanction will not prevent civilian casualties. While the transnational bodies approval gives this mission a greater level of credibility it will neither prevent the deaths of coalition forces, nor their Libyan brothers and sisters.

Finally, the editor noted that the Obama government has not adequately considered what type of regime they will be an acceptable substitution for the Gaddafi government. He illustrated that there are only two possible outcomes if Gaddafi is ousted. In the first outcome, the coalition forces will be forced to prop up a new democratic government and leader (greatly increasing the scope of the original humanitarian mission), or the country will descend into civil war, besought by regional factions seeking control.

In the world of international relations and humanitarian interventions it is easy to be a cynic. This is not my intention. I merely seek to provide a counterpoint to the pro-intervention rhetoric provided by the coalition governments. But let's not be fooled. This is not a humanitarian intervention; the UN sanction will not prevent senseless deaths and the coalition forces must ready themselves for a prolonged involvement.

SHED YOUR WINTER COAT

NEED A SPRUCE UP FOR THE SPRING? READY TO "SHED YOUR WINTER COAT?" A CAMPUS STAFF WRITER EXPLORES THE TOWN OPTIONS FOR A NEW SPRING 'DO.

BY DEVIN MACDONALD, STAFF WRITER



Devin MacDonald

1. TEXTURE SALON

(802) 388-9449
34 North Pleasant Street

Hours: Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Hair Cuts: \$20-\$25 for men, \$35-\$55 for women

Texture Salon, located on Route 7 North, is unique in its approach to hair care. The studio is a mostly organic one and uses organic color, as well as products that are ammonia free. The salon has started using a new green treatment for hair that infuses products with necessary proteins to make hair especially healthy. The hair studio also offers facials and manicures.

2. BIMINI BILLS

(802) 388-2350
57 Main Street

Hours: Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Hair Cuts: \$20-\$30 for men, \$25-\$40 for women

Bimini Bills has been a member of the Middlebury business community for over 50 years. The salon offers full service cuts for men, women and children. Located less than a mile away from campus, next to Ben Franklin, the studio offers customers cuts, color, highlights and waxing, in addition to manicures and pedi-

3. BUD'S BARBER SHOP

(802) 388-6887
44 Merchants Row

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (the staff takes lunch break from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)
Hair Cuts: \$12 for men, \$15 for women

A family barbershop next to Carol's Hungry Mind Café, Bud's Barbershop takes pride in the family environment and old-fashioned atmosphere of its salon. No appointments are necessary; walk-ins are encouraged. The shop promises quick, quality service.

4. SUPERCUTS

(802) 388-5400
260 Court Street

Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hair Cuts: \$15.95 for men and women, \$39.95 for partial color

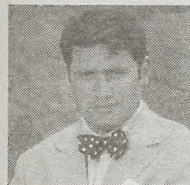
At Supercuts, situated near Hanaford's, walk-in appointments are welcome. There is also a bus route that stops in front of the salon. A low wait time and affordable cuts are guaranteed. The hair studio is a chain of internationally recognized ones and is known for its quality cuts.

5. JOE'S BARBER SHOP

(802) 388-2741
10 Washington Street

Hours: Monday from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Hair Cuts: \$11 for men, \$14 for women

Joe's Barber Shop guarantees it has the best haircuts in town. The studio is clean and friendly staff greets all customers. A television makes the cut go quickly. The service is affordable and quick, and walk-ins are welcome.



Meet Raj Bhakta

After being a contestant on "The Apprentice" and running for U.S. Congress, Bhakta now runs a whiskey company, pg 8.

Craft store has yarn galore!

Locals can brush up on their knitting, beading and crocheting skills at Cacklin' Hens, pg 9.



Localbrief

By Joanna Lyons, Local News Editor

On Monday, April 16, Otter Creek Bakery celebrated its 25th anniversary. Two and a half decades after co-owners Ben and Sarah Wood began their business, the bakery is still going strong.

"It is a real milestone," said Sarah, a resident of Cornwall, Vt. "We feel lucky to be where we are and still be a business and still a couple."

As a large banner and a slew of silver balloons marked the anniversary to locals passing by, the bakery offered special items in honor of the occasion. Otter Creek does not have a liquor license, so it got creative and put a new spin on a celebratory toast to its many years in business: the bakery served complimentary toasted baguettes with a maple fudge spread. The spread was organic, and with the exception of the Peruvian chocolate, other ingredients, such as the sugar and cream, were locally sourced. The Woods processed the spread, and customers can now buy the sweet treat in jars to bring home. The bakery also served merengues made especially for the occasion.

After years of working in the culinary world in all corners of the country, the Woods purchased an old Esso Station and opened Otter Creek Bakery in 1986. To the delight of local residents, students from the College and tourists passing through Middlebury, Otter Creek offers a variety of baked goods, sandwiches and more. The Woods are incredibly grateful for the sustained community support.

"Basically today is just a big thank you to the community and to our customers for being there for us," said Sarah.

Throughout the Woods' journey, they have kept their business and family closely aligned.

"It is a real family operation, and it is just quite an accomplishment to be in business and successful and still a thriving family for 25 years," said Sarah.

Otter Creek Bakery celebrates 25 years of success in the Middlebury community

Otter Creek Bakery is open Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Joanna Lyons

Otter Creek Bakery recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

one in 8,700

where the personalities of middlebury proper are celebrated

By Carina Guiterman

STAFF WRITER

Raj Bhakta is a man of many passions, and his life thus far has been about following those passions. Only in his 30s, Bhakta has already accomplished more than most do in a lifetime.

"My life shows the effective employment of attention deficit disorder," said Bhakta.

Some of Bhakta's long held interests are politics, history and entrepreneurship. While in his senior year of high school, Bhakta wrote a book about the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which he hopes will finally be published this year.

After graduating from Boston College, Bhakta's plan was to attend the Officer Candidate School for the Marines, but a broken shoulder prevented him from enrolling. Instead, Bhakta dabbled in investment banking in New York City.

"However, I soon realized that I did not want to be working for anybody but myself," said Bhakta.

Not long after quitting the banking firm, Bhakta embarked on his first of many entrepreneurial endeavors; 23 at the time, he started a company called Automovia, which was eventually sold to Chrysler in 2003.

That same year, Bhakta decided to try his hand at his family's hotel business, which he said was a huge financial success. He soon decided to change directions.

"I grew tired of my father breathing down my neck the whole time," said Bhakta.

He was not bored for long, though, as that same year, Bhakta discovered the TV show "The Apprentice."



Carina Guiterman

Raj Bhakta's pigs, Maude and Mortimer, help to promote his whiskey company, WhistlePig, located in Shoreham, Vt.

"I had never owned a TV, and still don't to this day, but my friends told me that I just needed to try out for the show," said Bhakta.

Heeding his friends' advice, Bhakta beat out thousands of candidates and earned a spot on the show.

"The Apprentice was interesting," said Bhakta. "The show brings out many of the least attractive elements of human behavior. People have got their knives out and are trying to stick it into each others' backs."

Bhakta did his best not to take the show too seriously. "I tried to insulate myself from getting too caught up in the madness," he said.

Even though Bhakta did not win the show, he remembers his experiences fondly. One of his favorite memories is asking tennis star Anna Kournikova out on a date. Kournikova agreed to go out with Bhakta only if he could return one of her five serves. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful. As punishment, Bhakta had to run around Arthur Ashe Stadium in his boxer shorts.

"Another highlight of the show was when I got to be a judge on Miss USA, along with Michael Phelps, Molly Sims and Frederick Fekkai," he said.

Bhakta said that another of his favorite experiences on the show was, ironically, his firing.

"When most people get fired they cry and have breakdowns," he said. "When I got fired I asked out Donald Trump's assistant."

Unlike Kournikova, she said yes.

After his run with "The Apprentice," Bhakta began to pursue his political passions. After working for the White House in an outreach program that worked to recruit young voters, Bhakta was recruited by the Republican Party to run for Congress in 2006.

Running in a district close to Philadelphia, Bhakta encountered immediate problems with the media.

"As a Republican who had been on a reality TV show, the local media had already written my story before they knew my name," he said. "And the story wasn't good."

Bhakta knew that if he wanted media attention, he needed to get it on a national level. He decided to make border control a main piece of his platform. To attract attention, Bhakta went to great lengths.

"I rode an elephant and crossed the Rio Grande with a mariachi band in order to show how open the border was," he said.

The scheme worked in grabbing the media's interest. According to Bhakta, his stunt showed "the absurdity of our policies. Trillions of dollars were being spent in the name of national security, but there is no border control whatsoever. I wanted to put a light on the absurdity of national American security policy."

Still, it did not help him to win the election. As for any prospects for running in the future, Bhakta remains hesi-

tant.

"When we begin to reap what we have sown in terms of fiscal irresponsibility, I will think about running for office again," he said. "But at the current moment, the nation is in a toxic haze of denial."

After his loss, Bhakta had no clear plan for what to do with his life.

"But then it dawned on me, that I really wanted to go and find an Indian Steve Irwin," he said.

He traveled through India's national parks, but unfortunately was unsuccessful in his quest.

After returning to the U.S., Bhakta purchased a farm in Shoreham, Vt., in 2007. A native of Philadelphia and a part-time resident of New York City, Bhakta had been up to Vermont many times to visit a friend who lives nearby. He decided to pursue another one of his passions — whiskey — to make his property productive after spending a cold Vermont winter on his farm.

Putting his entrepreneurial skills to work, Bhakta made the nation's first single estate rye distillery, naming his company WhistlePig. The company has received praise from a multitude of sources, and was named one of the top five whiskeys of the year by *Wall Street Journal*.

"Business is booming," said Bhakta.

However, just having a whiskey company was not enough for Bhakta, who felt that it was necessary to have brand mascots as well. A few months ago, he bought Maude and Mortimer, two Kune Kune pigs who are cousins, to fill this role. He has hired a pig trainer to teach his animals to be well behaved so they can make their debut with him this summer in New York City.

"The pigs will walk with me in the city down the most exclusive streets, into the fanciest bars and restaurants, and down the red carpet," he said.

He has also gotten the pigs custom made clothing; Maude has a Chanel-style dress, and Mortimer has a seersucker suit.

"The company has to be well represented," said Bhakta. "Pigs need to feel a little glamour too."

Currently, the pigs stay in Shoreham. He seems to have bonded well with them, as Maude and Mortimer sometimes sleep in his bedroom.

However, Bhakta said he "draws the line at [his] bed."

Bhakta has always valued his company's relationship with the College, as he has employed some students as interns. In fact, WhistlePig's first bottle of whiskey was bottled with the help of Middlebury students. He hopes to recruit more interns for summer and year-round positions when he gives a talk on entrepreneurship and risk on April 25 at 4:30 p.m. in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Bhakta's goal is to find students willing to care for his pigs in New York and make a mini-series on YouTube detailing the pigs' lives in the big city.

localnews

Shop shares passion for knitting, beading

By Charlotte Gardiner

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

On June 23, 2010, Cacklin' Hens: Vermont Yarn, Beads and Gift Emporium made its Middlebury debut. The store, located at 383 Exchange Street, opened soon after Main Street's Vermont Beads and Fibers closed for business. Cacklin' Hens' owner, Cheryl Burnham, who is also the theatre department coordinator at the College, seized the opportunity to open her shop, as it catered to the audience that once frequented Vermont Bead and Fibers. Cheryl actually purchased the "remaining inventory and fixtures" from Vermont Bead and Fibers during its closeout sale. With help from her daughter-in-law Amanda Burnham and her friend Amy Quesnel, Cheryl, who has a degree in buying and merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, is enjoying the success of the store's first year.

"Amy and I had been trying for many years to turn one of our hobbies into a business because we've always felt it was so important to enjoy what you were doing, so you might as well be making money at it," she said in an email. "That way, you don't feel like work is 'work'; it's a pleasure and fun."

Amanda, who was working in Colorado as a benefit analyst at a children's hospital, said she and her husband chose to move back to the east, as they both sought to be closer to their families. Her relatives reside in Pennsylvania. She is enjoying Middlebury so far and said her favorite spot in town is Costello's, where she is still getting through the menu and experimenting with sandwich options.

"I have always been crafty and into art," said Amanda, who graduated from Penn State University with a masters in health. "I also semi knew how to knit and croquet when I started working, but am now much better."

She credits "good timing" as the reason why she now works at Cacklin' Hens, as the store's opening coincided with her move to Vermont. Now a resident of Addison, Vt., Amanda plans to buy a home in Cornwall, Vt. with her husband, Jake, an architecture and engineering teacher at the Hannaford Career Center.

The store, which sells a variety of craft goods, also offers knitting and beading classes. A full schedule of these classes are available online at <http://www.vermontybg.com> or on the store's Facebook page. Amanda said "other creative people, who wanted to share their craft" have taught groups how to felt and basket weave too. The current classes at Cacklin' Hens include "Learn-to-Knit," "Basic Beading," "Crochet Basics," "Knitted Beaded Necklace," and "Knitted Placemats." Employees at the store, including Cheryl, Amanda and Quesnel, teach the classes, but each picks those that best suit her specialty. The cost per class is \$20, and those enrolled enjoy a 20 percent discount off of the supplies needed to make their knitted or beaded masterpieces.

"The place just evolved; we [Cheryl and Quesnel] both love antiques which is how we decided to incorporate antiques as our main display pieces so the store would feel more like a living room," said Cheryl in an email. "The customers would be comfortable and happy and feel at home."

Amanda said Quesnel, who works full-time at Cacklin' Hens too, has been beading and knitting since she was 12 years old, and the store is "her little brain child." She describes Quesnel as the "mastermind" of beading knowledge. Beading magazines also keep the employees inspired.

"Our goal is to go to the large bead show in Arizona," said Amanda. There storeowners can choose from endless quantities of jewels, and can also work with vendors to create novel bead combinations.

Amanda and Cheryl also travel to various tradeshow for yarn suppliers, as well as to product shows, where they buy much of the store's inventory. The two drive to New York City every August and visit the New England Product Show in Maine each year, where they buy many items to bring back to Middlebury. Representatives from yarn companies also come to Cacklin' Hens four times a year, so Cheryl can purchase needed quantities of yarn then too.

In addition to the seemingly endless supply of beads and yarn, the store also sells a variety of gift items, including rugs, purses and bags, ready-made jewelry and Allen Design clocks.

"We want people to think of us when they need not only yarn or beads, but for that unique birthday gift, or holiday gift," said Cheryl in an email.

Ashlee Bourque, who holds an art degree and has a background in knitting and beading, does much of the croqueting at the store. She is the crafter of many of the store's samples; her favorite yarn company is Noro, which sells "a colorful, bright yarn." Bourque, who said she always made earrings as a child, recently brought home four boxes of beads, as she especially enjoys beading during the summer.

"Everyone has a great time working here," she said. "You get to be creative and make stuff all day, and the other employees are awesome."

Cacklin' Hens has also started hosting birthday parties, mostly for eight to ten-year-old girls. The large classroom area to hold the celebration is also where the weekly classes meet.

"They [the party-goers] bead and have cake," said Amanda. "The parents love it and the kids have a lot of fun."

The store is now a member of the Better Middlebury Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce, but Amanda said the hardest part of any small business is "building the awareness that we exist."

"We would love to see more Middlebury students at the store," she said. "I see College students trickle in, but we want to see more of them and partner with them on projects."

Over Winter Term, Cacklin' Hens offered a basic beading class to students from the College. Three girls signed up, and the store hopes to teach the class again next January. For now, Amanda encourages students to attend the free, open knit-in on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. About five to 10 women from the community, some of whom have experience and others of whom are beginners, gather to knit and help one another improve their techniques.

"They [the women] are happy to share their tips because they have a passion for knitting," said Amanda.

Cacklin' Hens has several plans for the future. The store aims to begin making custom bridal jewelry, so the bride "becomes part of the process," said Amanda. A class to make reusable market totes for the Farmers Market on Saturdays is also in the works.

"Picking out beads and yarn is a process," said Amanda, whose favorite yarn company, Misti Alpaca, offers a "chunky, soft, warm" product. She believes the yarn's "quick, fun patterns" liven up the winter months.

The store is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or for specific details about the classes call (802) 388-2221.

"When I first told my son, Jake, about the plans for the store, he asked about the name and I said we didn't really have one yet, so he said 'Two Ole Hens,' of course meaning Amy and I, and then laughed," said Cheryl, who also noted that the store's name evolved into its current one, in an email. "To this day when first timers walk in the door, there's an exclamation of 'Wow, this is awesome.' It's so big and fun."



Charlotte Gardiner

Cacklin' Hens, located at 383 Exchange St., aims to please its crafty customers, including local residents and students from the College. The shop offers a variety of beading, knitting and croqueting classes for both beginners and more experienced customers.

21 April 2011

7

local lowdown

Cabaret performance

April 21, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Enjoy a night out on the town! Tonight, singer Sarah Stone will perform at the Town Hall Theater (THT) as part of its ongoing cabaret series. Fred Barnes will accompany Stone, who plays Laverne Devoe, a singer attempting to make a big comeback. Refreshments are available for lucky audience members. To buy your ticket (\$10), stop by the THT box office, call the theater at (802) 382-9222 or visit its website at <http://www.townhalltheater.org>.

Jazz jam

April 22, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Jazz musicians will aim to please a local audience this Friday night at 51 Main. College students and community members alike are invited to attend this informal concert.

Musicians with less experience should practice specific standards before heading up on stage. As always, audience members are welcome to enjoy a meal or snack from 51 Main while listening to jazz tunes. For more information on this entertaining night, visit <http://www.go51main.com>.

Ripton hike

April 23, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Join fellow hikers on a five-mile path that weaves through the area surrounding Robert Frost's cabin. The Middlebury Area Land Trust has organized the walk and hopes to incorporate bits of Frost's poetry into the outing. The moderate terrain welcomes hikers of all levels. Local snacks will be offered to participants. For more information, call (802) 388-1007.

Candy hunt

April 23, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Children aged from preschool through the third grade are invited to the New Haven town green for an Easter egg hunt. Adults must accompany their kids and all must bring their own baskets to collect myriad chocolate eggs and more. For specific details, call (802) 453-5978. The hunt will be held regardless of the weather.

Mellow Yellow concert

April 23, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Vergennes Opera House is excited to present Mellow Yellow, a band from the 60s. The group will perform a show entitled "Hit Parade Live" that is based off of the show, "American Bandstand." Seth Jarvis, a Burlington, Vt. actor, will make a guest appearance as time-traveler "Mike Young." To reserve a seat, call the opera house at (802) 877-6737.

Contra dance in Bristol

April 23, 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Looking for a different kind of Saturday night? Search no more! Make the short trip to Holley Hall in Bristol, Vt. for the ultimate contra dance. Pete Sutherland will join Cassandra Corkins in calling, and Matching Orange will play music for the evening. All are welcome, as no experience is necessary! Callers will teach a variety of dances; soft-soled shoes are recommended. Admission is \$10, and proceeds will benefit the 2011 Champlain Valley Fold Festival in Burlington, Vt. in July. For more information, call (877) 850-0206.

The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

The last year of a student's time at Middlebury is distinct in many ways from his or her first three. Socially, seniors are given access to the best housing on campus, and can apply to live off-campus. Academically, they get priority registration and set out to complete work on a degree that has been three difficult years in the making. For many, completing senior work of some type, either in the form of a thesis, year-long research project or senior essay, represents an intensive capstone to three years of hard work and dedication to the mastery of an academic domain.

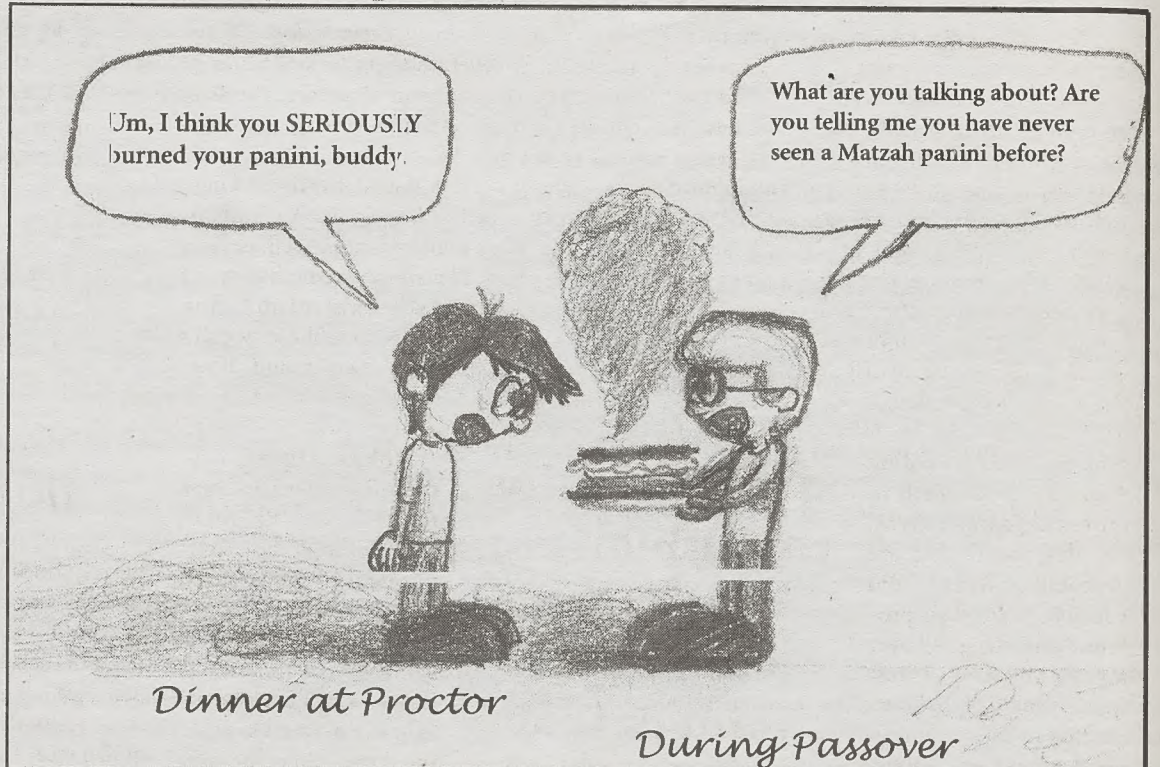
At the *Campus*, however, we question the administration's decision, beginning with the Class of 2013, to make the completion of senior work mandatory for graduation. We do not debate that writing a thesis can be an incredibly rewarding achievement and provide the rigorous, self-driven academic experience that we work up to during our first three years at Middlebury. As anyone who attended the recent student symposium could tell, the products of our peers' year-long dedication and effort are often extraordinary and inspiring. The chance to work independently under the guidance of a faculty adviser on a project that stirs one's academic and personal passions is one of the most valuable opportunities we have as students at Middlebury College.

But the gravitas of completing senior work has always seemed to be part and parcel of the fact that it is a self-selecting distinction. Certain majors, of course, already require theses of all its students; others leave it open as an option only to those above a certain GPA. As it stands, each department has its own requirements and set of rules regarding senior work. We do not believe that Old Chapel needs to enforce a unilateral academic policy — aren't the faculty of a particular department best suited to determine the parameters surrounding senior work in their own subject area?

Additionally, we are concerned about the strain on the faculty that will come with an increased number of seniors doing senior work. Many professors take a hands off approach to thesis advising, and in some cases this may be appropriate. But many students are not fully prepared for the task of writing a thesis or completing a senior research project, and they need strong guidance to help them through the year. Of course, this is nothing to be ashamed of — senior work is a huge undertaking, and academic advisers are meant to help and guide over the course of the year. By mandating that all students must complete senior work, we are concerned that professors will feel a greater time strain and therefore will be able to spend less time with each student, including their first-year advisees.

There are many students in the next two graduating classes who will not complete senior work, but would undoubtedly have produced something impressive and fascinating if forced to do so. However, we question whether senior work is the capstone that *all* students are seeking for their final year at Middlebury. A student may well decide he or she can get more from taking a traditional course in place of doing senior work — if that's the case, that should be the individual student's prerogative. Forcing all students to do senior work may increase the amount of independent projects the College is able to tout, but it will come at the expense of denying some students the chance to take the academic path that suits them best.

The *Middlebury Campus* (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The *Middlebury Campus* is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS4 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.



Dylan Levy

Notes from the desk: Ian Trombulak

One suite, two suite, good suite, bad suite

Housing registration for juniors and seniors at Middlebury sucks the big one. It's overly convoluted, illogical, stressful and frustrating. Even when everything goes smoothly, as it did this year, and we avoid debacles like last year's, the system seems to cultivate stress and anxiety when there really doesn't need to be any. It's too late for me; as a rising senior, I'll be worrying about leases and rent next spring, rather than random lottery numbers. But for the sake of all future Midd Kids, it should be at the top of the College's priority list to fix the housing registration system. Here are some ideas:

Give every block size a separate registration window. Making blocks of five, four and three apply in one fell swoop makes no sense at all. As it stands, a group of five friends applying for all three block sizes must choose two friends who will be severely shafted if the five- or four-block doesn't come through. If they were separate registration windows, it would give the fourth and fifth wheels the chance to attach themselves to another block for a new application, instead of waiting for singles draw to salvage what they can with their number.

Don't be so mysterious with the numbers. After every round of registration, it would be very helpful if they released which numbers were used in that round. That way, we would know what our numbers *actually* mean (i.e., #55 is actually #41 after six-block draw), and allow us to more accurately gauge our chances of getting the housing we want. This is a change that might not produce any tangible difference for the ultimate housing assignments, but it would reduce stress and generally increase the transparency of the process. Best of all, it would be *so easy to do*.

Don't limit the number of available blocks. Living in a suite or house with friends should be a luxury reserved for people who get stellar numbers. But living near friends in general should not be a luxury; in fact, it should be guaranteed at a College charging over \$50,000 in tuition. A group of four friends with lousy numbers should still have a chance to live near each other, even if they have to settle for a mediocre dorm. The reform here is simple: don't block rooms together until all applications have been received. Students will apply to individual hallways (i.e., Starr 5, Painter 2, Forest West

3, etc.), ranking them in the order of their preference (much like they do now, with pre-defined blocks). Then, when you know how many groups of six (or five, or four, etc.) want to live together, assign them all blocks in the order of their dorm preference. After doing blocks of six, move to five, then four, then three, and so on. It's like that activity in science class where you have to fit small rocks and big rocks into a cup. If you do the small rocks first, the big rocks just sit on top and won't fit. But if you put the big rocks in first, the small ones fill in the cracks and they all fit. Much of the anxiety of housing

registration comes from people wanting the best housing possible, but a much more significant portion comes from people being scared that they will get stuck in Hepburn while the rest of their friends live in Chateau. Eliminating a pre-defined set of blocks would prevent groups of friends from being needlessly split up, and would reduce the stress and tensions of registration.

Put on-campus housing registration BEFORE off-campus housing applications are due. At the very least, make off-campus applications due after the random numbers are released. That way, if you get screwed by on-campus housing, you can avoid Summer Draw by band-

ing together with other on-campus housing rejects and getting a house off-campus. Students shouldn't have to be forced to choose to live off-campus before they know what their on-campus housing prospects look like.

These are just a few changes that could very easily be made to our housing registration system over the course of the next 10 months. People will always complain if they get a bad number, but there are more universally regrettable features of the housing system that are bound to irk everyone from one to 1,500. Personally, I feel the live draw is a better and overall more fair system (picture sophomore year room draw on a larger scale), but the application system we have *can* work if those in charge are willing to take feedback and suggestions from the student body. We are, after all, the ones who have to live with your decisions.

IAN TROMBULAK '12 IS AN OPINIONS EDITOR FROM MIDDLEBURY, VT.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The Awkward BJ: Ben Johnston An Ode to Yesterday

A good day is a rare event. I'm not trying to be depressing saying this — it's scientifically proven. If days were rated and put on a graph, laws of probability dictate that the graph would show a bell curve: a few days would deserve the labels of "dumpy" or "wicked awesome," but most would fall between "meh" and "alright alright." Of course, there can be temporary runs of good or bad days depending on the circumstances, but I argue that, over a lifetime, day rankings would produce the distribution described above (and I challenge anyone who has been ranking and recording their days since birth to prove me wrong). "Why, oh why, Ben," you are probably asking, "did you just pour such profound knowledge all over my face?" Well, I just want everyone to know exactly what I mean when I make the following statement: In the life of Middkid Sid, yesterday was a good day.

Not a "Sid got a job!" or a "Sid just fixed climate change!" or a "Justin Bieber went back to elementary school!" good day. Yesterday was good in a more subtle way, in that it happened, kept happening, and then ended, without anything going noticeably wrong. But this alone does not constitute a truly good day. Yesterday was tremendous.

Yesterday was a day of adventure. In the morning, via BBC's *Life* on DVD, Sid traveled the world. He saw the wonders of evolution in action, with monkeys flying through trees, lizards walking on water and komodo dragons watch their prey slowly die over a span of two weeks. Sid wanted to say "Wow," and then he realized that nothing was stopping him, so he did. In the afternoon, he stepped outside with no destination and walked around. Everything was beautiful. Every tree swaying in the breeze, every raindrop on his face and every rotund squirrel descending into a receptacle of hu-

man waste was worth every second of his attention. Sid even thought he saw a couple monkeys swinging around the trees on Battell Beach. He was happy to have monkeys on his campus.

Yesterday was a day of freedom. There were worries of the future, like Sid's financial status after graduation, as well as worries of the past, like all money he had spent on Grille food and New Amsterdam Gin in the past couple months. But these worries were not worries of the present, and therefore were not worries of yesterday.

More than anything, yesterday was real. Sid did his work and honored his commitments, but saved time to be a king of relaxation, fanned by servants waving those huge leaves while he destroyed Bowser in MarioKart. At the same time, he was not a zombie and not a menace to society. He didn't rob banks, sell drugs to kids or vandalize the library. Yesterday was a day of responsibility, and still it was good.

Yesterday was, quite literally, mind-blowing. The take-out burger joint called Life cooked a juicy patty of happiness, wrapped it up, passed it to Sid, and he ate it.

Of course, every day can't be like yesterday. After all, if the good became the norm, the bell curve theory implies that it would cease to be good. Yesterday was a respite from bearing the full weight of life, and breaks such as these are essential to health and pleasure. I urge everyone to allow themselves days like yesterday, regardless of the state of their schedule — break times are just as important as work times. I hope everybody has had such a day in the not so distant past, and to those it may concern, happy yesterday.

BEN JOHNSTON '11 IS FROM BEDFORD, MASS.

Yesterday was, quite literally, mind-blowing.

The take-out burger joint called Life cooked a juicy patty of happiness, wrapped it up, passed it to Sid, and he ate it.

heardoncampus
The difference between laughing at someone and laughing with them is not as big as you might think.

— Zach Schuetz '11

Op-Ed: Paul Cillo

Health care reform for Vermonters

Governor Peter Shumlin is right. Health care reform is needed — the sooner the better. One big reason: Health care is busting the state budget.

But proposed reforms are not likely to produce real budget savings until 2015 at the earliest. Health care costs will continue to balloon until these reforms are in place. What happens to state budgets in the meantime? Which Vermonters bear the burden now? And who bears the risk if the needed reforms fail to materialize?

So far, low- and middle-income Vermonters have disproportionately carried the load. Going forward, this is neither fair nor fiscally wise.

Vermont health care costs have increased nearly nine percent a year on average for the last 10 years — twice the rate of the state's economic growth — according to data from the Department of Banking, Insurance and Health Care Administration (BISHCA).

Just as health care is eating up a larger share of the economy each year, it is also demanding a larger share of the state budget — now more than 30 percent. Unwilling to make the case for increased taxes, lawmakers have covered this increase by forcing down spending on everything else — the courts, education, child welfare, services for the elderly and other services essential to our civilized society. Most of these spending cuts are in human services, the largest area of the state budget, which affect low- and middle-income Vermonters most.

Meanwhile, those in the upper income brackets are largely immune from the budget impacts of rising health care costs. These Vermonters tend to be untouched by cuts to human services.

Until the economy recovers and health care cost growth is slowed to a sustainable level, Montpelier needs to find a way to cover both the rapidly increasing costs of health care and the ongoing costs of public services that Vermont-

ers need.

The best way to do so would be to levy a temporary tax on Vermonters with the highest incomes. Here are three reasons why such a tax would be both economically sensible and fair. Such a tax would provide:

1. A much needed stimulus effect on the state's recovery. Budget cuts and tax increases can dampen economic activity by reducing the amount that might otherwise be spent on goods and services. However, economists point out that state spending funded by tax increases on upper income households, who have enough money to be able to save, can have a stimulus effect because it puts money into the economy that otherwise would go into savings.

2. Relief from federal cuts affecting Vermont. Thanks to the extension of the Bush tax cuts, the top five percent of Vermonters are receiving a federal tax reduction windfall of \$190 million each year in 2011 and 2012. At the same time the federal government is reducing aid to Vermont — leaving the state to pick up costs previously paid with federal dollars. Taking back some of this tax-cut revenue can keep state services intact.

3. A stake in health care reform for all Vermonters. A temporary tax on upper-income Vermonters to help pay for the budget impacts of rising health care costs gives these Vermonters a solid reason to help the governor get those cost increases under control.

The governor's leadership on health care reform is laudable. And the legislature should enact his reforms this year. But until the cost-saving benefits are real, all Vermonters — not just those with low and middle incomes — should share the risks and pitch in to cover the state budget consequences of rapidly rising health care costs.

PAUL CILLO IS PRESIDENT OF THE PUBLIC ASSETS INSTITUTE.

The Id and the Eco: Rhiya Trivedi A call to action for a lifetime

This past weekend at Powershift, the proverbial gauntlet for every American young person was thrown down. Hard.

On Saturday night, Tim De Christopher — a renowned climate activist in jail for defrauding a land auction for oil and gas development (he outbid all attendant energy companies despite not having the money so that they would not be able to expand their portfolios) — challenged young people to step up their commitment to the climate as they never have before.

In order to do this, Tim had to establish the extent to which we are losing this fight on big energy, consumerism, consumption and scientific intransigence. In the past two years, environmentalists have seen their hopes for energy reform and climate regulation dashed as Congress continues to sell out the global climate and the American economy to big oil, gas and coal corporations. In waiting for the United States, the world's largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, to act, international negotiations on climate change have barely recovered from their collapse in Copenhagen, and the world continues to burn — 2010 was the hottest year on record, closing out the hottest decade on record.

With powerful rhetoric, Tim turned these harsh realities into an inspiring and resounding call to action. Invoking the waves of civilly disobedient anti-segregation activists who were arrested day after day in the early 1960s, he demanded a total, youth-led assault on mountain top removal mining. He demanded that day after day after day, hundreds step up to shut down mountaintop removal (MTR) sites across Appalachia until President Barack Obama was forced to either shut down the destructive process — in which mountaintops are literally blown off and dumped into rivers to gain easy ac-

cess to coal — altogether or send in federal troops to enforce its continuance.

Tim's fight is bigger than MTR mining, and ultimately, is precisely the direction in which a large of this movement needs to head. As young people, we desperately need to com-

We need people with college degrees and holistic minds who can help us to figure out how to coordinate the largest social, economic and political overhaul of all time.

municate the extent to which we are dissatisfied by a government so deep in the cavernous corporate pocket it can no longer hear the cries of progressives nationwide. We need to demand the speedy arrival of another world; a world in which the long term prosperity of all provides the very foundations of the political and social economy.

But Tim is wrong about a few things. His call for mass arrests and raised commitment came at the potential sacrifice

of college degrees and entire careers. His cause is so urgent he no longer believes that it can "wait 'til graduation" or that future employment prospects can take precedent over getting arrested today.

Tim is forgetting that we are in a lifelong fight driven not only by political will, but by what is materially possible; what resources the Earth can offer us and in what ways. If we shut down MTR today, I would be hard pressed to say that we could replace that energy with alternative forms. Natural gas was recently labelled dirty — possibly dirtier than coal. Solar, wind and nuclear energies, meanwhile, are far too costly as they stand today.

We need people to sign up for this movement for life. We need people with college degrees and holistic minds who can help us to figure out how we will coordinate the largest social, economic and political overhaul of all time. Decarbonising society is paramount; arrests today will no doubt help increase political will, but unless we maintain the wherewithal to simultaneously develop concrete, achievable solutions, we will be doing nothing short of running "no" campaigns — "no" to coal, "no" to oil and "no" to carbon. To what will we say "yes?"

Do not get me wrong; we need people to start getting arrested today and not to stop until the cry for justice is so loud that money can no longer muffle it. Young people have too much to lose. While we are re-building this house from within, it looks like we might need the older, more established generations to throw rocks from without. Who wants to ring up their grandma first?

RHIYA TRIVEDI '12.5 IS FROM TORONTO, CANADA.

Best Week Ever: Jaime Fuller P(resident)ial F(ace)book

Dear loyal *Campus* readers,

Three more weeks left in the semester. Five more weeks before I graduate. It seemed only yesterday that I was a nerdy kid with big hair and big dreams fascinated by college, marble buildings and all-campus emails. Actually, that was yesterday. But it's still terrifying that the end of my college idyll is coming up so quickly. I've been assigned the *Communist Manifesto* and *Richard III* enough times to quote them verbatim at parties, which I've determined is the purpose of a liberal arts education. I've also learned that you must become a proficient Apples to Apples player in order to be a successful college student (I think there should be intramural Apples to

Apples. I would totally be a champ. Get on that Bob Smith.). If "Your College Experience" was a red card, I would use the green cards Exhausting, Nerdy and Wild and Woolly to describe my four years at Middlebury.

In short, I've learned a lot in my four years. But, the season of lasts is upon us. Last unseasonable snowstorm (Please. Please.) Last last day of classes. Last Grille run. Last time I read the *Communist Manifesto* and *Richard III*. And this, dear reader, is my last Ron Liebowitz's Facebook Feed. Sob. Hope you enjoy. One more column until I sign off for good. Unless I write an overseas briefing from the beyond...

JAIME FULLER '11 IS THE MANAGING EDITOR FROM NORTH CREEK, N.Y.

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Ron Liebowitz
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Friends Online

- Jessica
- Shirley Collado
- Lisa Boudah
- Nick Jansen
- Ira Schiffer
- Daniel Scharstein
- Helen Young
- Tavern
- Gus Jordan

See All



Cool Prospies are now friends with Middlebury College.
10 minutes ago - Comment - Like



Lame Prospies are now friends with Williams College.
16 minutes ago - Comment - Like



Patrick Norton created the event Viva Old Chapel Vegas.
about an hour ago - Comment - Like - RSVP to this event

When: Saturday

Where: Old Chapel

Why: Gamble away your work-study money at the slot machines in the basement of Old Chapel. All proceeds go to the Middlebury Initiative.



Dean Janine You plagiarizers! This was our ideal! You're not following the Honor Code Norton!
about an hour ago



Patrick Norton I have neither given nor received any stupid aid on this awesomeness.
30 minutes ago



Dean Janine HIP HIP HOSS ROSS IS BOSS!!!
7 minutes ago

Write a comment...



Ron Liebowitz is friends with Bob Claggett after they both attended the event ZUMBA!!
3 hours ago - Comment - Like



SGA posted a note: "Bill to make all Dining Hall food as good as the Student Symposium Reception food."
3 hours ago - Comment - Like

Cool Prospies and Ron Liebowitz like this.



Registrar Check out the new Fall 2011 class posted today in the course catalog — Vincent "Evolving" Jones IV: A Philosophical Perspective. Taught by Scholar-in-Residence Plato.
4 hours ago - Comment - Like



Ron Liebowitz Just made a Rebecca Black Pandora station. BEST. IDEA. EVER!!!
6 hours ago - Comment - Like



Tim Spears WE SO EXCITED.
3 hours ago



Matt Biette Can you expand Proctor's budget this year? Gotta have my bowls.
2 hours ago



Ron Liebowitz Sure! I'm in such a good mood. Who knew a song about a bunch of Russians could be so popular? And the Campus reported that she is the Spring Concert!
20 minutes ago



Jyoti Daniere is attending Huntapalooza.
7 hours ago - Comment - Like



Seniors have joined the Davis Family Library Thesis Carrel network.
9 hours ago - Comment - Like



Seniors have left the Middlebury social scene network.
9 hours ago - Comment - Like



Ron Liebowitz I love Middlebury students SO MUCH!!! #midsym
12 hours ago - Comment - Like

Ron Liebowitz likes this.



G(A)PRIL created the event "That's so heteronormative" Day!
16 hours ago - Comment - Like - RSVP to this event

When: Friday

Where: EVERYWHERE

Why: Pledge that you will say "That's so heteronormative" at least once today! Shouldn't be too difficult at this campus!

Op-Ed: Profs. Essig, Moorti, Oxfeld In defense of Saper

In a letter to the editor about Middlebury sophomore, Jay Saper '13, Professor David Stoll wrote:

"Since Saper is a SOAN major, and I am a SOAN professor, I am embarrassed that he appears to be using sociological and anthropological concepts to make an ad hominem argument against an invited speaker, the Economics department and all tenured white male faculty at Middlebury College."

Jay far from embarrasses us. He is a very committed young man who is ready to use knowledge to deconstruct power and privilege. An approach that invites interaction between thinking and doing has always been central to social theory, regardless of its political bearings. From the radicals Karl Marx, W.E.B. DuBois and almost all feminist thinkers, to the far more conservative Emile Durkheim and yes, even Charles Murray, social theory has never just been a way to describe the world, but to change it.

Of course both how we interpret the world around us and what we think needs to be done will depend very much on our political paradigms. How could it be otherwise? But the tools of social theory, what C.Wright Mills calls "the sociological imagination," give us the ability to locate our own point of view in larger structures of power, to relate our own story to history.

Jay's op-ed about Professor Levine's presentation was an attempt to locate the power of certain ways of conceiving research. Jay was very upset by the talk and the paper on which it was based because of the use of the terms "culture of despair" and "culture of poverty." These terms have long been disputed, within

and without the academy, because of the way in which they pathologize the family formations of poor and racialized people. We understand Jay to be questioning the continued usefulness of these categories, especially since the talk was not tied to a particular course, which would have provided the necessary contextual information. Similarly, Jay's comments about marriage are meant to situate the privileges of that institution as benefiting certain races and classes over others. None of these comments are directed at individuals, as Professor Stoll suggests, but rather at structures of power and privilege.

At the center of the liberal arts mission is an expression of diverse and even contradictory ideas as well as an invitation to criticize and even protest those ideas. So even if you disagree with Jay's particular project, and even if you disagree with how Jay has pursued it, we should not be embarrassed that Middlebury is producing critical thinkers who insist that knowledge is neither abstract nor objective, but a means of re-making ourselves and the world around us. It is exactly this sort of engagement with knowledge — this sort of intellectual citizenship — that is central to the liberal arts mission.

LAURIE ESSIG IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY AND WAGS FROM MIDDLEBURY, VT.

SUJATA MOORTI IS A PROFESSOR OF WAGS FROM MIDDLEBURY, VT.

ELLEN OXFELD IS A CHAIR OF THE WAGS DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY FROM MIDDLEBURY, VT.

Op-Ed: Denizhan Duran Who cares about the commons?

Every Middlebury student possesses an identity in this bubble: this identity can be defined by our friend group, where we live, our major, where we are from, what extracurricular activities we do, etc. I have, however, rarely seen anyone define himself by the commons he is in, during the 3.9 years that I have been here. I suspect commons do not form anyone's identity on this campus.

This sunk in when I got a lengthy email today regarding changes in various commons, and I immediately deleted it. Now, there are few emails I immediately delete without even opening — I cannot stand having unread emails — and emails regarding commons are the only ones I delete constantly, and I get at least 10 a week: Brainerd Dinner, Brainerd Newspaper, Brainerd Coffee, Brainerd Party, and the list goes on. This is not because I am a very busy

man who does not have time to read another stupid email; on the contrary, I even read IM emails although I have never played hockey in my entire life. Rather, it is because I am annoyed at how much the commons system occupies the bureaucratic system of this College, while it achieves nothing for the students. I will go as far as saying that even the European Union is less bureaucratically redundant than our school's commons system.


I would not complain about this if we were a school of abundant resources — but we are far from that. During my sophomore year, I would get emails every week about how our budget was failing and how we needed to trim it. The cuts affected everyone: a hiring freeze diminished the number of courses we could take, we were subjected to a different form of sausage at Proctor every lunchtime, Atwater was closed and need-blind financial aid for international students was revoked. Some cuts are ending, but it is undeniable that we are in a new normal now in which we can-

not splurge, and this only makes sense given the overall state of the economy.

Yet, during this process I haven't seen the commons system take a single hit. Every commons had their annual parties, the commons still had budgets to fund rather irrelevant projects and commons offices and houses of commons heads still occupy precious space on this campus. It is even more astonishing that this all happened at a time when housing became disintegrated from the commons, and the efforts to build something close to Colleges in the Ivy League universities came to halt due to budget restrictions. If I were to rank important institutions in this school, I would put (Brainerd) Commons to the end of that list; and I'm sure most of my friends would do the same for the commons they are in.

Which is why I argue that we should get rid of the commons system or, at least, significantly trim its budget so that they do not spend as much on activities that appeal to a very small population of this school. Middlebury has way too many institutions that need more funding: from a strictly personal point of view, for example, I owe my presence here to the availability of need-blind financial aid for international students, so why not devote more funds to financial aid for internationals instead of the commons budgets so that we preserve our ever-hailed diversity? Or spend more on academic departments so that we can preserve the quality of teaching? Times are tough, and we need to set our priorities straight. We made the mistake of starting the budget cuts from things that matter the dearest to students, leaving a bureaucratic and needless (for most students) institution intact. This must change.

DENIZHAN DURAN '11 IS AN ECONOMICS MAJOR FROM ISTANBUL, TURKEY



Honorary degree recipients share their stories

Stories by Megan Nesbeth, Staff Writer

Dottie Neuberger '58, community activist

When Dottie Neuberger '58 graduated from Middlebury, she had no intention of settling in town, but over 50 years later she's still here. Neuberger remembers her time at Middlebury fondly. She was a sorority girl, an athlete and mixed and matched various other activities during her time at the college.

If there is anyone who knows Middlebury, it's Neuberger; few have served the community as thoroughly as she has. Many students have lent a hand with Neuberger at the free community suppers that she organizes at the Congregational Church in Middlebury. Through the supper program, Neuberger also provides nourishment to the community by serving lunch four days a week and handing out breakfast cereals at the weekly dinners. In addition to her volunteer work with the community suppers, Neuberger has worked in schools all throughout Addison County, including the Bridport elementary schools in which she now works, and she has taught at the local community college for the last 20 years.

One of the reasons Neuberger may have remained in Middlebury after graduation is her warm memories of school.

"It was great fun," Neuberger said. "My college friends are still some of my best friends 50 years later. I know that's corny, but it's true. When I was a student, I'm not sure if I realized what value my friends at Middlebury would be to me for the rest of my life."

In fact, Neuberger cites being able to see so many friends and classmates when they return to the college as one of the greatest perks of staying in Middlebury.

"Most of us grow up at college," she said. "When you go to college there are a lot of people with similar interests and similar goals and you're living together — growing up together for four years so you get very close. When you go out in the work world that cohort won't always be there anymore."

Like many other Midd Kids who hail from just outside of Boston, Neuberger moved back to Boston after graduation to work for a few years while making plans for law school. Her first job out of college was in a merchandising training program run by Filene's. Through the program young employees rotated through different positions and when Neuberger got to the research department she stayed on in an open position. After Filene's, Neuberger returned to Middlebury to work as the first ever Assistant Director of Admissions for Women. Soon after her return to Midd, plans for law school in Cambridge, Mass. were set.

"I was off to Harvard, but I met my husband and got married instead," said Neuberger.

Neuberger began building her adult life in the town of Middlebury and has remained here since her initial return in 1960.

During her early years back in Vermont, Neuberger stayed at home to raise her children and then eased back into the workforce, moving people from mental hos-

pitals into the community during the initial phases of deinstitutionalization. Later, she became a school-based clinician, which she still does to this day.

"There's lots of part-time work in Vermont which is great for when your family is your main focus," Neuberger said, adding, "Middlebury is a great place to raise a family."



Courtesy of Middlebury College

When it comes to looking for work after school, Neuberger urges grads to, "Get a job. You don't have to get *the* job, but get a job that you're interested in," said Neuberger. "Find something where you can learn. That'll keep you young for as long as you live as far as I'm concerned."

In her eyes, Middlebury has not changed more than anywhere else over the years.

"The population has grown. It was a much freer community, but that was everywhere."

Modernity has stripped even Middlebury of the luxury of ignoring problems in its midst but the important qualities of the town still remain.

"[Though] there are more stores down on Route 7 now, there is [still] a sense of community in Middlebury and that's one thing that hasn't changed. The College adds so much to it. I don't think the college kids realize what role models they are for the kids in the community and how important they are to the kids here," said Neuberger. "They do a great job of doing that just by being who they are."

Neuberger considers her upcoming honorary degree from Middlebury and other awards that have been conferred upon her great surprises that were not on her radar.

"I look at the other recipients and I'm truly in awe of them," she said. "They've worked in a macrocosm and I've worked in a microcosm — that's something anyone can do."

Neuberger's life is an exemplar of how one can continue working with the community in which one finds him or herself to help that community.

"I don't solve many problems," she said. But, "We solve a lot of problems together. Making change is about working with other people and persevering."

Padma Desai, expert in Russian economics

"Go out in the world. Live how people live for a dollar a day and after that life-transforming experience, come back to America," said Padma Desai.

The world renowned scholar of Russian economics and professor of economics at Columbia University came of age in India and has since made the United States her home, a logical step since when Desai was growing up, "the destination was always America," she said.

In those days it was the wealthy Indian boys who studied at Oxford and Cambridge on their fathers' dimes who were able to go West, but as the daughter of a professor, Desai simply could not afford to make her way to the West along the same route as her male counterparts. Instead, she applied for merit-based awards and landed a fellowship in the American Association of University Women, which brought her to Harvard in 1955 to complete a Ph.D. in economics. At Harvard she began pursuing her life's work.

"As soon as I started reading and going to school, even primary school, I just wanted to be a teacher," she said. "I always wanted to teach and change ideas. At one point my dad suggested that I be a doctor, but I said no."

Though Desai always knew that she wanted to teach, deciding just what she would teach was little more than a random decision.

"[Economics] was almost a default option," she said. "My eldest sister studied English literature so I wanted to do something different. Looking back I think it was the wisest decision of my life. [Economics] gives me the analytical rigor that I love."

She may have taken up economics on a whim, but Desai found her calling in the discipline. Her work in Russian economics has brought her countless academic distinctions and awards, research and teaching posts, publications, grants and conferences in which she has been both a participant and guest of honor. Her 13th book, which focuses on the recent financial crisis, is set to be released in the coming weeks. Her memoirs will be on shelves in 2012.

"Harvard was totally liberating and exhilarating. That's where my American roots are. After fifty years in this country, temperamentally, I feel that I belong here," says Desai.

Having now lived more years of her life in the U.S. than in India, Desai reports feeling disoriented when she returns to her homeland.

In the initial transition, Desai experienced many differences between the two cultures. Just as few of us will remember Middlebury solely for its academics, Harvard brought Desai more than just intellectual surprise, given the fact that Harvard

provides a different setting from her conservative Indian childhood.

"I was quite attractive, to put it mildly, and I wore a sari and I attracted a lot of attention. I felt very special," said Desai.

Fifty years of teaching undergraduates — from her time as a teaching fellow at Harvard up through her present professorship at Columbia — has put Desai in a unique position to comment on the undergraduates alongside whom she will be receiving her honorary degree. Years of experience have led her to worry about the lack of interest that native-born Americans seem to show toward math, science and engineering and wonder if this has something to do with using a calculator too young.

"At all stages American education has to be entertaining," she said. "The worst evaluation a professor can get is 'this teacher is boring.' In other cultures, people value education. You get down to it. It's a serious business. You want to master it. This whole conception that young people should be entertained while learning is problematic."

Desai cautions against the American tendency to go overboard and create massive problems, like the financial crisis of 2009, although she notes that, "Americans are also great problem solvers and it's the same drive that leads us to go overboard that leads to innovation."

Desai's favorite aspect of Americans, though, is our temperament.

"Americans, by temperament, are very optimistic," she said. "My young students



Courtesy of Middlebury College

are so idealistic. I've never seen young people in any country who are so driven by idealism. They should go out and see the wide world. They may want to change some things they see and can get fulfillment that way. Americans like to do something different. They want to do things that help people.

"There are always people who want to make money too, but the instinct to do good is a very American thing. Never have I ever heard so many people say, 'I want to give something back to the community.' It's such an American calling especially meaning the community around you, maybe not the world, but people want to help the community that they are in. I find it a very exceptional quality amongst the young in this country."

The first in a series on the six honorary degree recipients

Student Symposium

Midd Kids show off their knowledge at the fifth annual student symposium, pgs. 12-13



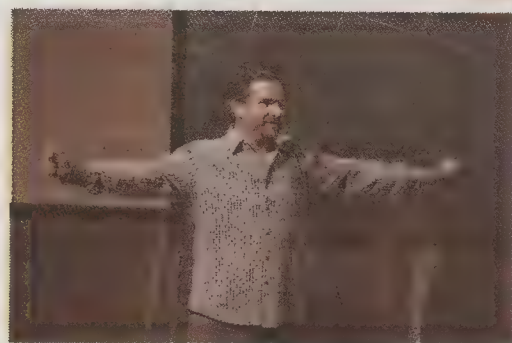
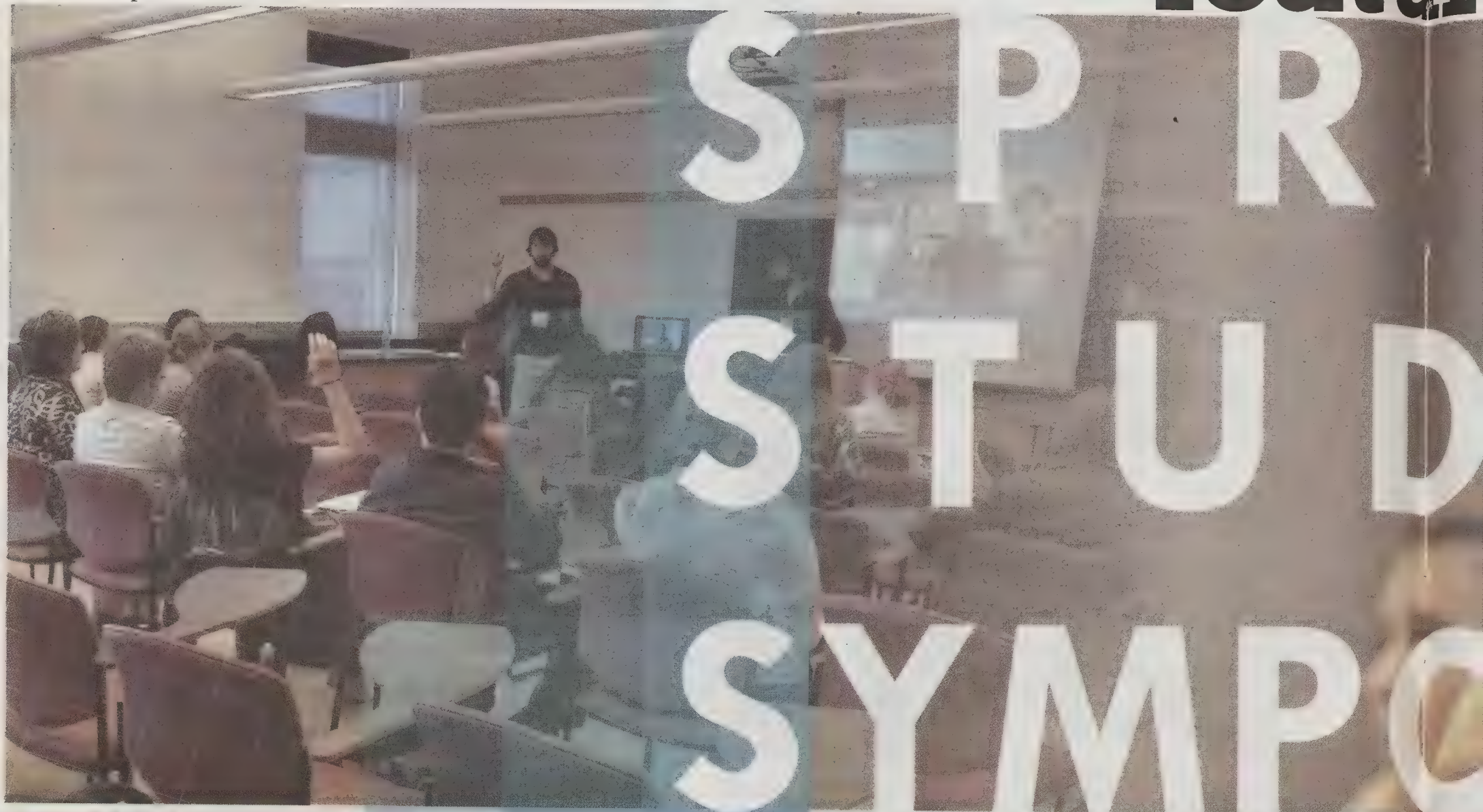
Sophomores Study Abroad

See why some of your fellow students opted to study abroad early, pg. 15



Midd Alum up for Webby

Alumnus website up for award, pg. 14



FROM TOP 1. Brad Corrigan '96 delivers keynote speech.
2. Lark Nierenberg '11 presenting *Beyond Boxes: Queering a Linear "Sexual and Gender Minority Youth" Narrative*.
3. Students, staff and faculty congregate in Bi Hall's Great Hall for the post-presentation reception.
4. Ben Johnston '11 explains his research on *Substrate Channeling between GPAT and GARS in the de novo Purine Synthesis Pathway* to a symposium attendee.

Photos by Sopheak Chheng

Page Design by Ian Stewart, Layout Editor

Last week, 270 Middlebury students across disciplines and class years came together to present the culmination of months of research in what has become an annual celebration of academic exploration at Middlebury — the student spring symposium.

Now in its first year as a multi-day event, the symposium began Thursday with what Center for Teaching, Learning and Research (CTLR) Director and Symposium Committee Co-Chair Kathy Skubikowski described as "a festival for the arts," including music and dance performances as well as film and theater pieces. The decision to schedule these performances on a separate day was made with the hope of increasing attendance — according to Skubikowski, last year's symposium lasted until 6:15 p.m., and the audience dwindled as the night went on. In addition, Bicentennial Hall was not at all conducive to music — with its lackluster acoustics — or dancing, with its hard, wooden floors.

"This year the arts department [was] really intent on there not being any distinction between the morning and evening presentations," explained Carla Cevasco '11, student project manager for the symposium. "They want the arts to be taken seriously and seen as an academic thing."

To accompany this homage to art academia, the committee selected Brad Corrigan '96, a member of the bands Dispatch and Braddigan, as keynote speaker. This was a rather unconventional choice, given that in the past two years, the speakers have been academics; Gruia Badescu '07, who did work for National Geographic and the United Nations, spoke last year, and the year before, marine scientist Cinda Scott '99 gave the keynote address. Skubikowski, however, felt Corrigan was a good fit for the position.

"We saw how well Midd had prepped him for what he later did in founding three or four charitable foundations — he put together his music major, environmental ethics minor, lacrosse, french — to help other people," said Skubikowski. "It struck us that he took the skills and passion he acquired here and put them together in interesting ways."

"He showed there's more to learn in the classroom or what you Cevasco.

While some were unimpressed by the work he has done so

"He showed the what he learned to the rest of his life and that's why the liberal arts. They go to college don't know how to apply it necessarily that a music major could go on and it was a really good thing for students."

The Friday presentations featured as well as short lectures given by were organized into themed groups share what they learned through move among groups to enjoy and hear about a wide variety of topics for example, "Intersections and E presented at the same time as "An

Presentation topics within each low viewers to look at one topic bikowski.

"A lot of the presentation groups even the presenters hadn't thought be illuminating even for presenters by these groupings."

In what seemed a stroke of with preview days for prospective entirely a coincidence? According sium, Dean of Admissions Bob C

Who PRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM?

Environmental Studies
History of Art and Architecture

Neuroscience
Chemistry
Physics

Studio Art
Political Science

Psychology
History

PRESENTING STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



...ed there's more to a Middlebury education than what you
...ssroom, or what you write or what you learn in the lab," said

...me we're unimpressed with Corrigan's speech, others were
...work he has done since leaving school.

...ved that what he learned at Middlebury, he was able to apply
...his life and that's what a lot of people are insecure about with
...s. They go to college and they do something [t]here and they
...to apply it necessarily later on," said Cevalco. "So the fact
...major could go on and do something beyond music... I think
...good thing for students to see."

...ay presentations featured poster representations of research
...rt lectures given by students on their findings. The lectures
...ed into themed groups, giving each speaker 15 minutes to
...ey learned through their research. Attendees were able to
...groups to enjoy individual presentations, allowing them to
...vide variety of topics and not be confined to one grouping if
...Intersections and Evolutions of Identity Politics" was being
...ne same time as "American Travel Writing Projects."

...ion topics within each category were loosely related, to "al-
...o look at one topic from a variety of directions," said Sku-
...the presentation groups are trying to find connections that
...nters hadn't thought of initially," said Cevalco. "I think it can
...g even for presenters to see their work being interpreted just
...ings."

...seemed a stroke of good luck, the symposium coincided
...days for prospective students. However, this setup was not
...cidence. According to Skubikowski, after last year's sympo-
...f Admissions Bob Claggett requested that some of the stu-

dent research posters be placed in the admissions office for preview days.
But what he really wanted was for "students and parents to experience the
buzz" — that is to say, the high-energy excitement of academia that was
tangible throughout the day. So preview days and the symposium were
organized for the same weekend, allowing prospective students to experi-
ence the opportunities Middlebury can offer them.

"I think it's important that prospective students see — especially if
they're deciding between a place like Middlebury and a bigger university
— that here at a liberal arts college you have more of a change to do these
kinds of things, to do research directly with professors instead of having
grad students," said Cevalco.

While student participation is growing every year, the question as to
whether canceling Friday classes increased attendance is still up for de-
bate. Even with a successful turnout, it seemed as though many of students
present were seniors watching their friends present and other presenters
moving around between presentations.

"Because there are so many seniors presenting senior work it's harder
to get undergrads to come for example because they don't personally
know people who are presenting," said Cevalco. "They'd have to come
there out of pure academic interest, which not everyone is going to do. But
we're a pretty nerdy campus and there were a lot of people there who were
genuinely interested."

Others felt a strong student interest present in all years, and not just
among the senior class.

"I'm so glad they canceled classes so students who were not present-
ing could see the amazing amount of original research that students do on
this campus," said Assistant Professor of Political Science Quinn Mecham.
"I had a number of students come up to me afterwards and say how the
symposium inspired them to make sure they do an independent research
project while they are here."

The symposium was, all in all, a resounding success, received very
well by presenters, attendees and moderators alike. For seniors, it was a
chance to show the fruits of their labors as well as to see the result of their
classmates four years at Middlebury.

"I think the symposium was a tremendous success for the College,
exhibiting its encouragement of student activity over and above classroom
performance," said Evan Masseau '11. "I enjoyed seeing culminating proj-
ects in many disciplines that really displayed just how diverse Midd Kids'
interests are."

For undergrads, it encouraged and inspired future participation
and promoted independent research projects as an academic avenue.

"Overall I was really impressed with the students' knowledge of their
topics. Obviously they had all done significant amounts of research for
their subject, and it showed," said Leslie Reed '14. "During several of the
presentations I felt like I was hearing from a guest speaker or professor
more than a student. For me, it was motivating to see that all of the hard
work really does pay off."

For undergrads it was an opportunity to revitalize their interests
through research and student interactions.

"I did the symposium because I want to let people in Middlebury
be more exposed to the art of porcelain as well as Chinese history," said
Wenbo Zhang '13, a first-time presenter. "I really appreciated the amount
of freedom the symposium gave me so I didn't feel pressur[ed] in any way
... I had fun talking to people about my poster and sharing some stories
about the emperors."

The symposium offers a brief moment for students, so focused on
their own work and their own classes, to take a step back to appreciate and
celebrate the successes of our student body in independent research.

"Remember that the people you see around every day in the dining
hall — we're all academics," said Cevalco.

This word cloud shows the majors of all of the
students who participated in the symposium. The
larger the word, the more
students in that major
who presented
their work.



Word cloud created using Wordle at <http://www.wordle.net/>.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY COMMENT ON THE SYMPOSIUM

Cori Hundt '11 — I really enjoyed Brad Cor-
rigan's keynote address because it was very dif-
ferent from a lot of the speakers we normally
bring to Middlebury, in that he truly spoke from
his heart and in doing so showed us that what's
possible when you follow your passion in life,
regardless of what that may be.

Dean of Admissions Bob Claggett — Although
we are several weeks from knowing if this event
will end up having any effect on our yield of the
admitted students, there is no question that it
was a success from our perspective in Admis-
sions, and we are hoping to have future Preview
Days programs coincide with the Symposium.

Eleni Polychroniadou '14 — My professor,
[Assistant Professor of English & American
Literatures] Dan Brayton, suggested I present
my research at the symposium and honestly it
was really exciting to share what I have been
researching with others. It didn't seem strange
that I was a first-year, as everyone was extremely
supportive and excited that I was researching.

Campus Character: Zach Schuetz

By Rafferty Parke

STAFF WRITER

"I guess I've always had this kind of independent streak," Zach Schuetz '11 said halfway through our interview, as though that was not evident from the moment he strolled into the Grille. The bearded New Hampshire native had chosen to accent his hoodie and jeans with a plaid bathrobe, tweed cap, fingerless leather gloves and orange patterned socks with sandals. The backdrop of the Grille, usually warm and inviting, felt pathetically generic in comparison.

Perhaps a stage would have been more appropriate. A theatre and music enthusiast, homeschooled from first to eighth grade, Schuetz quickly found himself on a different wavelength from many of his peers.

"I was involved in theatre and band and a bunch of different groups that weren't 'cool' according to the majority," he said.

Even his shoulder-length hair and beard — which he stopped shaving senior year — elicit strong reactions.

"People would comment on it and just be like, 'Wow, it's so weird that there's a guy with a beard here,'" he said. "I would just be like, 'Well, it's actually sort of the natural state of things for most guys.'"

This matter-of-fact attitude served him well in his transition to Middlebury.

"When I got to college," he said, "I was like, 'Wait a minute. There's no one stopping me from doing whatever I want, wearing whatever I want, spending my time how I choose.' It's been a lot of fun."

With a newfound sense of empowerment and more leisure time than he had to work with in high school, he began to explore a wide range of opportunities. Over the past four years, he has sung with a cappella groups of the Renaissance, Christian and anime varieties; played Quidditch; joined Xenia, the substance-free social house; and played percussion in both the pep band and the pit for the Middlebury College Musical Players. He also enjoys Dungeons and Dragons (a fantasy role-playing game), anime, video games and science fiction stories.



Photos by Eleanor Horowitz, Photos Editor

The line between Schuetz's leisure activity and academic work is blurred when it comes to languages. In total, the Japanese major and linguistics minor has studied five at Middlebury: Japanese, Spanish, German, Sanskrit and Ancient Greek.

"I like to hang out and talk with people about different languages they're learning and try and compare different structures. I get really excited when you find some obscure word that turns out to be related to ... some language that you wouldn't think."

Along the same lines, he truly appreciates his classmates' intellectual drive, both inside and outside of classes.

"I love the academic environment here, but also the sense that you can't learn everything you need to know from being in class... The liberal arts experience is about educating the total individual, and I really appreciate that."

Among those who inspire him the most are his academic advisers and the friends he has met here: "really amazing, intelligent, creative people and just good people."

It seems reasonable to wonder: as one of the College's biggest fans, how does he think he has contributed to it? In addition to "providing [his] voice" to various musical endeavors, Schuetz is proud of his involvement in the fledgling linguistics program, as a member of the first graduating class with the option of the minor.

"So those are the more tangible things," he said by way of summary, adding a thoughtful stroke of his mustache. (Something good just had to follow.) On the other hand, "From a personal standpoint, I'd like to think just by walking down the street that I like to shake up people's expectations."

And shake he does, often spotted around campus in eccentric combinations of accessories and/or bright colors. Schuetz does not intend these to be taken as mere expressions of self, but as encouragement to follow suit (no pun intended).

"We have a lot of freedom here," he said, "and I think some people don't take advantage of that, to say, 'Hey, you know I'm just going to wear pajamas to class and dress in neon colors today or do something crazy like just get together and find a hill and roll down it.'"

Even in small ways, he hopes that his clothing adds whimsy to life on campus.

"The difference between laughing at somebody and laughing with them is not as big as you might think," he said. "As long as I make people's days a little more interesting, then I'm definitely happy with that."

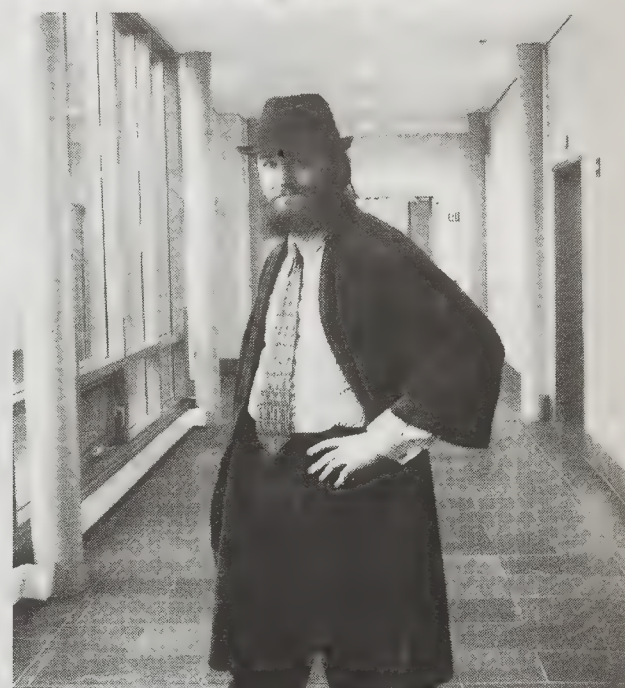
While studying Japanese at Middlebury's language school, he made an effort to wear costumes to class on Fridays.

"You know," he said casually, as though it were obvious, "dress up like a wizard or Robin Hood or whatever."

One Friday, the day of a major test, was particularly memorable.

"I walked into class [in costume], and people started giggling, and I had someone tell me right after the class — in Japanese, of course, because it was Japanese school — 'I'm so glad that you wore that today because I was really nervous before the test.'"

He hopes that by setting his example, he can remind his peers



to take a step back and gain some perspective.

"Yes, there's a test," he said of that summer day, "but it's still Friday, and you can still relax and go a little crazy. That one day, it was all worth it."

This summer, Schuetz will be doing Java programming for a software company in California. Though all of his previous jobs have related to computer software, there remains "a total disconnect" between his work experience and academic focus.

"I've never actually taken a computer course," he said flatly. "I've just sort of picked it up on the side."

In the fall, he will return to Japan to work for a community outreach program affiliated with His Call Church, which he attended during his semester abroad in Nagoya. He looks forward to coordinating and leading the youth groups that so inspired him during his visit.

"When I went there, it was amazing, seeing the energy they have and the passion," he said. "I just thought to myself, ... it's music, and it's languages, and it's talking to people and it's something that I would love to be a part of."

After "at least a year, hopefully two" in Japan, he hopes to return to the States, attend graduate school and teach Japanese.

"I just love the language so much," he said. "I would love to have the opportunity to share that with others ... even maybe at Middlebury, if that's possible."

As he plans for life after Middlebury, Schuetz advises new students to spend the first year exploring their options, academic and otherwise.

Just stop," he said, "take some time, get your bearings, find what interests you, do something you never thought you would do and see how you like it."

And if an email signoff is any indication, this is certainly a man to be trusted.

"Peace and nifty hats,

Zach Schuetz."

FeaturesBrief

By Ashley Cheung
Staff Writer

Alumnus' website nominated for Webby award

Midd alum Mike Bender '97 has just announced that his much-loved website, Awkward Family Photos (AFP), has been nominated for a Webby Award. Awkward Family Photos is exactly what its name suggests: a collection of photos featuring highly amusing and amazingly awkward families. Bender launched this site about a year and a half ago after realizing that the awkward family photos his family had were something relatable that everyone could enjoy together. The site has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *GQ* and *Entertainment Weekly* among other press outlets.

For Bender, being nominated for a Webby Award is a great honor. A Webby Award is an award presented annually by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Science (IADAS) for excellence on the Internet with categories in websites, interactive advertising online, film and video and mobile content. For each category, there are two winners selected: one by members of the IADAS, and one by the public who cast their votes during Webby People's Voice voting.

"It feels great to be nominated. For a website, the Webbys are the equivalent to the Emmys for TV or the Oscars for film, so it's a big deal for us. We are nominated in the 'weird category' and of course we can consider AFP's oddness a badge of honor."

Some of the other websites in the "weird category" include thedailywh.at,

whatthef*ckshouldimakefordinner.com, rathergood.com and mostawesomesthingever.com.

So why should you vote for AFP over the other "weird" websites?

"Awkward Family Photos deserves to win because ... our site consistently surprises people and make them think, 'Now, how the hell did that happen?'" said Bender. "But most importantly, we do it lovingly and never assume that we are any less weird or awkward than the next person. And let's face it — is there anything stranger than family? No, and we like it that way."

Bender encourages all Midd Kids to vote for his website to support a fellow Middlebury graduate and to help "spread the awkwardness," as the site's tagline suggests.

"I spent four gloriously awkward years at Middlebury and hope everyone will support us and vote for Awkward Family Photos by April 28," said Bender. "To win, we'll need every vote we can get."

To vote for Awkward Family Photos and check out the rest of the Webby nominees, visit:

<http://webby>.

aol.com/media_types/web?focused_on_category=986#cat_id_986



Midd Murmurs collects stories

By Kelsi Morgan

STAFF WRITER

Middlebury Murmur, which officially launched last week, allows students, faculty, staff and alumni to record stories about their Middlebury experiences specific to a place on campus.

By calling 802-443-2600 and typing in the number in the orange blurb specific to each building on campus, you can hear recorded stories about that place.

Typing in the number for Bi Hall, for instance, will allow you to hear Barbara Wilkinson '12 recount her first-year experience of sliding in socks around the upper floors of the building with her friend as they avoided studying for a Chemistry exam.

Pushing the three numbers for Battell will give you a story from Pat Cronin '86 in which he describes the rooms that were just "a notch above jail cells" and the friendships he made that have lasted far beyond his first year.

While Murmur is an international program that began in Toronto's Kensington market neighborhood in 2003 as a network of short recordings that tell personal stories about buildings and sites in an area, Middlebury Murmur aims to make experiencing the college more personal.

"[It aims] to convey the Middlebury experience through narrated stories," said Design Director Pamela Fogg. "In the fall, we will roll out a web component that will allow people from all over the world to hear what Middlebury is like, narrated by the people who had that experience."

Last week, Murmur set up a display in the li-

brary, complete with a map on the floor detailing locations about which stories have been recorded (which include Bi-Hall, Proctor, the library, Munroe and Johnson). On Thursday, April 14, Murmur provided a recording booth in the library for students, faculty, alumni and staff to make recordings.

According to Fogg, about 60 stories have been recorded thus far.

"Because [the stories] are unrehearsed and not recorded in a studio, it takes time to edit them," said Fogg. "For this launch, we tried to pick 20 to edit. We hope to get more up for the fall and web launch. New stories were collected last week at the library exhibit and we will also be recording at this year's reunion."

Currently, the communications staff records all stories but Murmur hopes to eventually have a system that will allow people to simply call in and submit their stories.

Fogg believes the program has been successful. "I think [the community's response] is positive," said Fogg.

While the program was introduced mainly for visitors on campus, it may offer a larger commentary on storytelling as a whole.

"The way we tell stories is changing," said Jasmine Lee '14. "A lot of it is spoken now, and it's becoming more indirect. Instead of telling someone a story one on one, there are other mediums through which people are getting these stories, like the phone or the Internet. I think this is good, because it's a product of how we grew up."



My Powershift: a personal account

By Eliza Wallace

Staff Writer

Day 1, Friday:

Throughout the day, Powershifters bid Middlebury, Vermont adieu and boarded buses to head down the coast. It was D.C. or bust — and 11 hours later, sitting in gridlock on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and missing Al Gore's keynote speech, it was almost bust. Luckily, we tumbled off the buses into the Walter E. Washington Convention Center just in time to register and hear Van Jones, famed environmental advocate, speak for a rousing welcome to the capital. The speakers went on, but I left for bed, deliriously tired after the long day on the road.

Day 2, Saturday:

The 10,000-or-so souls reconvened bright and early for the day with triple-shot Venti-sized Starbucks coffees in hand (the mark of becoming a city android for the weekend). The morning was devoted to movement training sessions that covered how to organize and structure an environmental movement in one's community. At Middlebury, with an organic garden, biomass plant and ultra-vocal Sunday Night Group, it's hard to remember that not all schools have the same amount of environmental enthusiasm. West Virginia University, for example, is still trying to set up meetings with their president to discuss a carbon neutrality plan. These schools undoubtedly benefited from the training sessions and were able to collect materials and models on how to set up activist groups. The Middlebury contingency, however, might have benefited from more advanced training.

The convention center was just a short walk away to Chinatown, which provided access to enough good ethnic food to satisfy our culture-starved palates for at least another month. After a lunch break, we had three blocks of time to fill with panel, training or workshop sessions of our choice — and we could choose from nearly a hundred options. The sessions discussed everything from fracking (a method of natural gas drilling) to how to succinctly counter-argue the claims of

a climate-change-denier.

That night was another gathering at the main stage to listen to a lineup of speakers, both famous and pulled-from-the-crowd. Lisa Jackson, head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), promised to do all she could to advance progress of climate regulations. Tim de Christopher cautioned the masses to remember the hard truth — we have already gone too far, destroyed too much and our world will never be the same, but he encouraged us to continue the fight. Hands down, the best treat was to see our own Bill McKibben take the stage to eardrum-shattering cheers. We forget how privileged we are, here to be able to chat face-to-face with this environmental activism rockstar. Speeches were followed by a concert of several sweet-voiced musicians and an always sweet, longed-for bedtime.

Day 3, Sunday:

More movement training sessions kicked started Sunday and were followed by some downtime. Scores of buzzing students unwound energy and soaked up some sun on the green lawn of the square in front of the convention center. Most of our group departed on Sunday afternoon, but the ones who were sticking it out until Monday attended a state breakout session with their home state or the always-welcoming Vermont to learn what environmental organizations and programs were happening in that state and how one could get involved. I stopped by the Vermont room before heading to the West Virginia room to get my name on both sign-up lists and was able to see some troubling differences in state activities. Vermont was as high-energy and well-organized as you would expect with packets for its kids, a comprehensively-built email list and SNG-leaders keeping everything running smoothly.


The West Virginia room, on the other hand, lacked a facilitator or any sort of leadership personages. The miniscule, aimlessly rambling students seemed unable to articu-

late any movements I would put any confidence into and failed spectacularly to communicate with each other. My heart sank after my home-state breakout and nearly stopped when I attended the consecutive Lobby Day training session in preparation for the lobbying that we would be participating in with our state representative on Monday. Only one other guy and I made up the lobby team for West Virginia, with other states like Iowa boasting at least a twenty-person team, others with much more. It was disheartening to see how some states really were not up to par in the movement and have even more complex relationships with big energetic and economic problems. West Virginia is so bound up with the coal industry that its two Democratic senators must disregard environmental regulation to support the existing source of economy in the state, and dare not consider alternative energies in the face of the huge coal corporations.

Day 4, Monday:

The last day of Powershift was certainly the best experience of the trip because it was the most deliberate use of our powers as citizens of a democratic government. The participants met in Lafayette Square in front of the White House to march and display support for investment in clean energy and ending coal and oil dependence through passing the Clean Air Act, one of the most effective pieces of legislation for the slowing of emissions and resulting climate change. Being a part of such a huge march on Washington was exciting and empowering. People chanted, "Oh! It's hot in here, there's too much carbon in the atmosphere!" and "This is what democracy looks like!" as they marched to the Capitol building to lobby. The other half of the crowd marched on the Chamber of Commerce to protest corporate handouts. Stopping traffic, making a scene — it was like getting attention as a two-year-old by having a tantrum, but it was also getting to directly use our first amendment rights. Then we lobbied. This

involved meeting with staff members who worked for our representatives in the Senate and the House and, as constituents, asking them to support the Clean Air Act and our climate concerns. With my little West Virginia voice, I didn't feel as though I had made a difference, but I did feel like an American, if that makes sense. I would recommend a lobbying experience to everyone, just to put your toe in the torrential waters/sluggish swamp of the process of Congress for a moment. After a whirlwind trip, we booked it to Union Station to catch our bus to return north, pulling into Adirondack Circle at 2 a.m., fully Powershifted, with stories to tell and new thoughts to share.



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08 DAYS LEFT **APRIL 29**

Sophomores reflect on studying abroad early

By Shannon Fiedler
STAFF WRITER

Each year, 60 percent of Middlebury juniors study abroad, but Lisa Luna '13 and Ethan Galiette '13 are switching things up. Both are currently spending the spring semester of their sophomore year abroad.

Luna is studying geology and ecology at the Universidad Austral de Chile through Middlebury's C.V. Starr School located in Valdivia, Chile. Luna is also interning with the Chilean forest service, Corporacion Nacional Forestal de Chile (CONAF) to design a field guide for a new national park.

While most Middlebury students study abroad during their junior year, Luna felt like it was time.

"I was ready to do something different," Luna wrote in an email. "I think that the desire to fly away occurs at different times for different people, and it's good to embrace that urge when it happens."

"Early is only a relative term," said Luna, "and I know that I was ready to go when I did, and that I'm going to appreciate my next semesters at Midd far more than I would have otherwise."

Galiette, too, felt unconstrained by the tradition of studying abroad junior year. He is studying economics at University College in London and taking two history classes that focus on London.

"It was a great decision for me to study abroad my sophomore year," he wrote in an email. "I decided to study abroad now for a couple of reasons. Since I play soccer, my only option was to study abroad in the spring term, and I don't see much of a difference between going sophomore spring versus junior spring. Either way I'd miss a spring term at Midd."

"That being said," he continued, "it is more important to land a summer internship for the summer after junior year than after sophomore year and I did not want to have to deal with applications, interviews and even flying back and forth to the

States for face-to-face interviews while I'd be studying abroad."

Chile and London are two vastly different places but they do share one thing in common: they are both very different from Middlebury, Vt.

"I think that the biggest benefit for me has been gaining some perspective from outside of the Middlebury bubble earlier on than most students," said Luna. "Being here in Chile has helped clarify some of my goals for the rest of my time at Midd and for my time after Midd."



Courtesy of Middlebury College



Courtesy

"It's also shown me just how much I have learned from my time at Midd so far," said Luna, "which is often hard to grasp when you're desperately typing away in Bi Hall at 3 a.m."

Galiette agreed that exposure to a different culture has been one of the biggest benefits of studying abroad.

"Studying in one of the biggest cities in the world is a great change from the pace at Middlebury," said Galiette. "I live in a dorm with British students as well as international students, including Americans. Being in London has made it easy to travel

through Europe as well. And I've been to the Emirates to see Arsenal play — one of the greatest experiences possible.

But Luna reminds us that although studying abroad is an immersion into another society, it's still another college term.

"It's just like normal life, but in a different place," she said. "I think the thing to remember about this being an 'experience' is that yes, it is an experience, but so is every single day of every person's life. What I mean by that is that this isn't a game, and it's not a break from 'normal life,' but rather a really awesome part of normal life that happens to be lived in a different place and a different language."

While it is normal life, it cannot be denied that the different place and the different language are influential components of a term abroad.

"The best part about studying abroad for me so far has probably been the language," said Luna. "I absolutely love speaking Spanish all the time. I've also had an excellent time at my internship."

Since Galiette is studying in London, the language barrier has not been an aspect of his term there. But the European culture has been a change from which he feels he has greatly benefited.

"The best part of being abroad is meeting new people from all over the world and living in a new culture," said Galiette. "Traveling through Europe goes along with that point as I have seen many different areas and cultures. I don't have too many negatives about being abroad. The one that jumps out to me is missing friends back at Midd."

Both Luna and Galiette stress that study abroad is not something students should feel has to be confined to junior year and that the decision to study abroad should happen when it works best for students.

"I would definitely recommend studying abroad when you feel ready," said Luna. "If that's earlier than most people go, that's okay. If it's later, that's good too."

"Study abroad isn't just something that you do as part of your education," said Luna. "It's part of your life. So choosing when to do it is really important, and I think that going at the time that feels right makes the experience so much better. It's not about age or 'preparedness' in a numerical sense. It's a personal choice, just like everything else in life."

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&
losers

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Powershift

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Preview Days

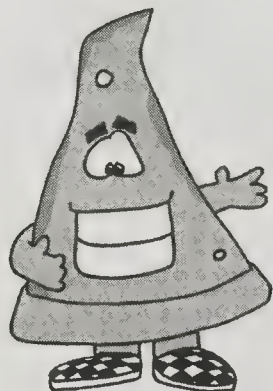
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SYNERGY - SENIOR DANCE SHOW

By Claire Sibley
STAFF WRITER

I go to a show to be convinced. It doesn't have anything to do with good faith, or believing that something has meaning because I paid six bucks to watch it. It's the respect for a performer's ability to do their job: to make me think, not tell me what to think. In return, I don't pretend it's my job to tell them what they're saying. My job is to respond.

The choreography of *Synergy* didn't bother stopping to invite response — instead, response was demanded, over and over. In a year, if the audience doesn't remember individual moments of movement, what will remain impossible to forget was the laughter. Of course the humor of "A Generation Gap" — referred to affectionately by the dancers as "The Bad Dance" — was obvious: Alena Giesche '11, Cat Miller '11, Christian Morel '11 and Heather Pynne '11 dedicated their con-

amount of credit is due to Heather Pynne, whose lighting design proved innovative in the most transformative sense of the word: I had not realized how embarrassingly little attention I had paid to lighting until I realized how much Pynne's work deserved. It is difficult to do justice to how thoroughly her design betrayed a deep understanding of both the choreography and how to highlight it. Most pointedly, for Miller's heart-wrenching solo "Breaking," Pynne chose to suspend two ceramic lamps; which, in harmony with the sound of rainfall and strings, recalled industrial alleys after midnight. The restriction implied by their halos underscored Miller's intuitive embodiment of torturous self-containment. Pynne taught the audience that the best lighting makes the dancer's message clearer — with that support, Miller's fluid articulation had me feeling the question, "What's wrong with me?" instead of ask-

mantic, and left the viewer feeling like they went out for a night in the red light district and ended up falling in love. Morel understands how the body was made to move.

In terms of surprise, Giesche's work takes the cake — both "and in the end we laugh" and "I view you" showed huge change when considered in the context of her past work. What remained was her trademark sensibility of how one body relates to another, highlighted in her duets co-choreographed with Jeremy Cline '11.5; in her choreography, his body finds a way to effortlessly tread the line between strength and grace that leaves you breathless after lifts. Her own dancing has the quality of a catalyst: her motion seems to be always in transition, even in pause, that allows a piece to move forward — and facilitates its audience's release into that motion. Part of that seamlessness is what makes "I view you" stunning. Focusing on self-image as defined and constricted by social fear, Giesche used voice-over of interviews with her dancers and lighting projected onto her dancers' bodies to create a decidedly audience-involving piece. As the dancers enter in nude-colored leotards, their skin seems to take on the lighting of the projections. Later, as they dress in outfits brought onto stage, it feels almost as if the audience is dressing them. We are left to wonder how arbitrary those dressings are. Here again we find humor and revelation in what's not expected—something Giesche should be commended for.

In addition to her paired solos, "Breaking" and "Restoration," Cat Miller choreographed a third piece, "Cluttered Ships." Dancers Davis Anderson '13, Alex Siega '12, Moore and Alicia Evancho '12 showcased one of Miller's choreographic strengths, which integrates practices of dance movement therapy: the way an individual body expresses an emotion. What was perfectly communicated was the poignant and often painful consequence of human interaction; Siega's dynamic execution played well with Evancho's gymnastic elegance. Moore and Anderson's duet, wracked with the tenderness of intimacy and fear thereof, proved unforgettable.

The greatest of dance performances leave you wanting to dance. The Middlebury seniors have done this with *Synergy*, bypassing convincing and becoming a dialogue that both enriches and astounds.



Photo by Heather Pynne

Jeremy Cline '11.5 and Alena Giesche '11 in a duet choreographed by Giesche.



Photo by Heather Pynne

Alexandra Vazquez '12 and Julianna Mauriello '13 in Morel's piece.

siderable talents to ecstatic hip thrusts, classic Madonna voguing, the Macarena and other laughably mainstream caricatures, set appropriately to Akon's "Sexy B*tch" and under the cover of black pleather and more glitter than any self-respecting drag queen could hide in his bottom drawer. But more than a successful act of performative comedy, this dance betrayed an awareness of the act of dance: the audience was allowed to see that dance is and should be hard work, but it can also be fun. Well-executed does not necessarily mean sober-as-Swan-Lake, and funny doesn't necessitate making passion a joke.

This mindset of uninhibited self-awareness was among the strongest ever-present themes of *Synergy*. For this, an impressive

ing it.

If Miller left me suspended in the poignancy of emotion, Morel's piece shook down all existential perches and left me in a very corporeal nest of sensation. Morel's choreography opens in the body of Alexandra Vazquez '12: her tank-top and petal-skirted costuming allowed for the clear articulation of each muscle, showcasing Morel's remarkable intuition in the beauty of opposites. Constantly, we are made to reconcile the seamless with the serrated, maddening tik-tok precision with organic evolution of motion. Morel took full advantage of dancer Julianna Mauriello's '13 faultless articulation and softened James Moore's '12 angular fluidity to create a quartet that could at times be both chilling and ro-

Slam poets travel to national competition

By Toren Hardee
ARTS EDITOR

Anna Gallagher '12, Alex Geller '12, Maya Goldberg-Safir '12, Mori Rothman '11 and Bella Tudisco '13.5 didn't have high expectations when they traveled to Yale University on the first weekend of spring break for the northeast regional poetry slam qualifying tournament. They had heard about the tournament at the last minute from Special Assistant to the Dean of the College and Senior Advisor for Diversity Jennifer Herrera and they had just barely managed to scrape together their team. Not many of them had performed spoken word poetry on stage more than a few times, if at all, and none of them had ever competed in a collegiate poetry slam.

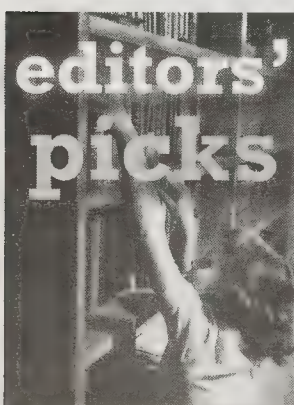
They found themselves there because Gallagher and Tudisco, after seeing the Verbal Onslaught-

sponsored performance by traveling poetry trio Night Kite Revival (featuring Taylor Mali) earlier this year, had decided to form a spoken word poetry group that would have regular meetings and, ideally, might someday cohere into a team that could travel and represent Middlebury College in competitive poetry slams.

The tournament at Yale found that idea becoming reality sooner than they may have thought. To their surprise and excitement, they upset Wesleyan and advanced to the College Union Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI), the national collegiate spoken word poetry competition being held this year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Enthused by their unexpected success at the Yale tourna-

SEE POETRY, PAGE 19



editors'
picks

22

Middlebury
College
Orchestra
Concert Hall
8 p.m.

Program includes two world premieres: "Piano Concerto No. 1" by Nicholas Tkach '11 and "Requiem for Choir and Orchestra" by Noah Silverstein '11, as well as "Manitou Rising," by Peter Hamlin '73.

22

Sepomana
McCullough
Social Space
8 p.m.

WRMC's diverse annual mini-music-festival features Sam White '11-led rockers The Ivorys, indie darlings Oberhofer, Philly's retro-power-pop outfit Free Energy and NYC rap trio Das Racist. \$5. See page 18 for more details.

24

Chamber
Music Recital
Concert Hall
2 p.m.

Cellist Sarah Harney '12, pianist Sean Dennison '11 and violinist Zheng Zheng '11 perform a recital of solo and chamber works, featuring pieces by Bach, R. Strauss, Ysaÿe and Schoenfeld.

26

Lunch and
Discussion:
Victory
Seeler Studio
Theatre
3 p.m.

Director Richard Romagnoli introduces the play and leads a discussion about the upcoming production; members of the cast share insights on their work. Lunch is provided. Strong adult language and content make this a performance for mature audiences only.

BOOKING IT

by Molly Talbert

Book | *How I Live Now*
Author | Meg Rosoff

Though Meg Rosoff's *How I Live Now* was written in 2004, it remains one of my favorite books of all time. This book is so powerful because of the unassuming voice of the narrator, fifteen-year-old Daisy, and the casual but poignant observations that she makes. Because of Daisy's candid way of speaking, the reader is immediately able to relate, on some level, to the internal and external struggles that the characters overcome.

The story takes place in the near future — far enough ahead to make the setting believable yet contemporary enough so that we recognize our world. Daisy, a straight-talking New Yorker, has flown to England to spend the summer with her cousins, whom she has never met. Although Daisy comes from a background of upper-middle class privilege, she had a difficult childhood and has a chip on her shoulder because of that. Her mother died when she was born and her father remarried a few years later to a woman Daisy despises. Now her stepmother, Davina, is pregnant and Daisy feels that her father is shipping her off to her distant relatives (on her mother's side) so that he can start his life over — with Daisy out of the way.

When Daisy arrives in England, the world is on the brink of war. Her Aunt Penn is a politician working desperately to steer the world away from disaster. Aunt Penn is often not at home, leaving Daisy and her cousins to live on their own on their farm in the country. This world without adults gives the book that dream-like quality of childhood. Even when the war starts and Aunt Penn goes missing and all of the cell towers and internet go down, Daisy and her cousins feel safe and insulated from the rest of the world.

Yet war has a way of creeping in and finding them. As the story progresses, Daisy grows beyond childhood and becomes an adult. Little by little, Daisy takes control of what she can and becomes a mother figure for her youngest cousin, Piper, a sister to her cousin, Isaac and a lover to her cousin, Edward. The roles that Daisy takes may seem strange and even perverse (two fifteen-year-old cousins falling in love with each other, for example), but Rosoff writes with such beauty and Daisy's voice is so straightforward that the reader is not repulsed at all — the progression of the events makes perfect sense.

Besides the power of the story, I loved the book's voice, which is told through a continuous stream of thought in Daisy's head. It takes a little getting used to, but this style is very striking at crucial times. As a fifteen-year-old, Daisy is caught in that strange time between childhood and adolescence. She sounds very childish at times, yet at other times, her maturity is astounding. For example, when describing her stepmother, Daisy says very bluntly, "Davina the Diabolical, who sucked my father's soul out through his you-know-what." But Daisy also has a very sweet side and looks out for her 'family'. She protects Piper and believes in her head that "the thought made me fierce and strong like a mother wildebeest and all of a sudden I knew where people got the strength to pick up cars with babies lying under them which I always thought was made up."

The combination of the voice and the haunting essence of the story leaves the reader enthralled. Save this book for the summer — you won't be disappointed. It won't take long for the magical quality pervading throughout the novel to capture your imagination.

Panic ignites fears, sexuality

By Deirdre Sackett
ARTS EDITOR

Low Level Panic ran in the Hepburn Zoo from April 14-16. The senior 700 work of Ele Woods '11, Jess Spar '11 and Lindsey Messmore '11, the piece was written by Clare McIntyre during the decline of the feminist movement in 1987 Britain, and explored the tenuous dynamic between women, sex and objectification. *Panic* was both a simplistic and hugely complex performance: though the play was set in a small bathroom populated with sparse props and featured only three actresses, the messages carried within the piece stood out against the minimalist backdrop and resonated deeply within the audience through the powerful acting and starkness of the stage. The Hepburn Zoo, with its intimate seating arrangements, was the perfect venue for the performance; it was almost as if the audience was sitting in the bathroom with the performers.

Panic tells the stories of three women — Jo, Mary and Celia — who are housemates relegated to sharing a single bathroom in London's East End. It is in this room where they can express themselves honestly, share their most intimate dreams and fears, and ultimately, try to discover what it means to be a beautiful woman. Like the bathroom in which it takes place, *Panic* is oftentimes bright and warm, and at other times wet and messy as it explores female fears of both sexual fantasy and assault, and the idea of the "perfectly beautiful woman."

Woods played Jo, a woman who outwardly expresses her sexuality through clothing and fantasies, and who constantly urges Mary to cut loose as well. Her character begins the play lounging nude in a bathtub, ranting about yet another romantic fantasy concerning her "perfect man." Jo appears at first to be the loudmouth of the play — the confident counterpart to the demure Mary. Yet underneath her confidence and bravado, Jo is overwhelmingly insecure about both her body and her sexuality. She is constantly checking herself in the mirror and has dark sexual fantasies about being "watched" by other men, or having sex with multiple partners in rapid succession. One particularly striking scene finds Jo standing in front of the bathroom mirror, haunted by the weight of these fantasies and her desperation. The audience hears a voice-over of Jo imagining a particularly vivid and grotesque fantasy, and as her thoughts escalate to scenes

of sexual violence and degradation, she jolts back from the mirror, halting the voiceover. Disgusted with herself, she flees the bathroom. The audience learns that her bawdy personality is just a façade for her deepest fears — she often wonders if she will ever find a partner, or if she is simply doomed to a life of crawling around parties in glittery outfits looking for a perfect man. Woods' proficiency at both comedy and drama shone through in this role; it seemed natural for her to play the spunky Jo, with her outrageous dreams and snarky commentary. But as the play continued and Jo's duality began to emerge, so too did Woods' dramatic acting, and she slowly drew out the fears buried deep within her character's psyche.

Spar's portrayal of Mary serves as a jolting foil to Jo's bawdy character. Mary is logical and inquisitive, and uncomfortable with dressing up to impress men at parties. The audience is introduced to her character as she reads a pornographic magazine to Jo, mocking the nude models and the crude sexual language used in the publication. Though she attempts to act logical, there is something dark lurking behind her façade, much like in Jo's character: she seems to be always on the verge of a breakdown, especially when she gets riled up about her gender and identity. A flashback halfway through the play alerts us to the reason behind this — Mary was sexually assaulted coming home from work one night. In a jarring solo scene highlighting Spar's command over her character, Mary converses with two male voiceovers that see her unlocking her bike and ask in perverse tones to "go for a ride." When Mary refuses their advances, she is assaulted and enacts the brutal crime using her own hands; when the men "leave" the scene, the horrific spectacle ends with Mary's guttural scream of shame and rage. Since she was wearing a skirt that night and perhaps looked "more attractive" than usual, Mary tries to rationalize what happened by saying, "Maybe if I was wearing trousers, it wouldn't have happened." The incident haunts her throughout the play, and it influences her to become the speaker of truths among the three protagonists. For instance, when the girls are preparing for a party, Mary refuses to wear a revealing dress Jo bought for her, and in a fit of determination and fury, decides to dye the dress in the middle of the night to make it less attractive and "more to her style," declaring

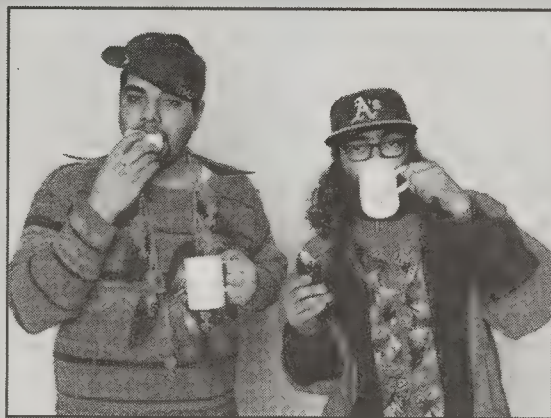
that it is unnecessary to dress up if you are uncomfortable and cannot be yourself.

Celia, played by Sara Lusche '13, does not get as much stage-time as Mary and Jo. Not much is known about her character; she begins as a poised and confident woman, though we learn later that she is actually very quick-tempered and is angry about sharing the bathroom, so she releases her anger and frustration on Jo. Conversely, Jo is jealous of the fact that Celia always seems to find men to take home.

Though it carried shades of feminism, *Panic* was able to relate to both men and women alike by introducing its heavy themes slowly through Jo's humor and Mary's rationalism. Though they were hard-hitting and brutally honest, the messages were not didactic or shoved in the audience's face, and McIntyre's delicately written dialogue was both sensitive and gripping.

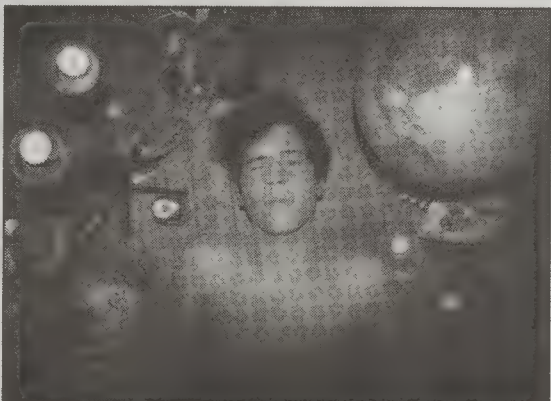
Messmore did not intend to direct a "feminist" piece for her 700 thesis, but she became hooked on McIntyre's authenticity and edgy writing. As a result of this admiration and dedication to McIntyre's art, her direction was spot-on to what the playwright intended for the piece. The lighting design was also a noteworthy aspect of the play — the brightness of the bathroom was an indicator of the piece's current mood, and made it seem as though the bathroom itself were a fourth character complete with moods and a personality. Nighttime scenes bathed the stage in cool blues, setting the stage for the characters' honest discussions, while a gentle light outside the bathroom's "window" heralded a beautiful sunny morning. Notably, the flashback to Mary's sexual assault was a dim, sinister yellow as though the incident occurred underneath a streetlamp.

It has been 24 years since *Panic* was written, but the themes presented still remain relevant to this day, especially in light of the relationship/hookup dichotomy on college campuses and how college girls view themselves in these situations. At *Panic*'s end, the question still remained whether or not the three women would overcome their darkness and embrace their beauty. However, through the performance's superb acting and direction, McIntyre's message rung out strongly: be yourself, be comfortable in your body and no matter what fears or insecurities you may hold in your heart, life goes on, and there is no need to panic.

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Weed, food, race, New York City, rap and weed are among the favorite subjects for this hilarious, up-and-coming, blog-beloved rap group. Come for the fast food-themed joke raps, stay for the witty, mind-bending lyricism.

Indie youngin' Brad Oberhofer may have only released one EP, but he's already become a favorite across the blogosphere for his unique voice and inventive, energetic, passionate songs about nervous love, breakups and misplaced lust.

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These Philly newcomers are signed to LCD Soundsystem's DFA Records, and while their music is more power-chord-and-cowbell-fueled classic rock than electronic dance, they're just as adept as LCD at bringing the fun in their live shows.

To kick things off, Middlebury student Sam White '11 will bring the hard-charging, White Stripes-esque grooves of his Chicago band The Ivorys to McCullough. Come support this talented trio as they open what's sure to be a great show.

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All photos courtesy

Slam poetry thrives at Midd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

ment, and excited to gather with 38 teams of people who love poetry as much as they do, the team quickly made arrangements to attend CUPSI, which took place April 6-9.

At the tournament, they found themselves living up to their impromptu name choice — “Poor Form Poetry” (if you say it fast, it sounds like “perform poetry”) — in a pleasantly surprising way; judges, not to mention other teams, admired their scrappiness. It was clear that they were there out of a love of poetry, not of competition, and that their inexperience with the collegiate poetry slam “scene” led them to do things their own way and brought a certain honesty and genuineness to their performance.

Now that they’re seasoned veterans, they’ll tell you that honesty plays an inter-

esting role in these competitions — a poem’s emotional honesty might win the performance some extra points from the judge, so it will sometimes seem like a team is forcing honesty or exploiting a tragic memory in order to score points. Such are the odd predicaments that arise in the strange world of “competitive art.”

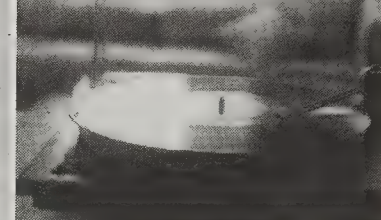
As exciting as the competition is, they insisted, the real magic of these tournaments is the extreme bonding that occurs despite these competitive conditions. If a poet on stage delivered a great line, even if they were a member of an opposing team, audience members were extremely vocal in showing their admiration. Many rounds concluded with a massive beat-box/freestyle rap circle in the hallway, the team added. And at the end of the day, many teams went out together and all ended up in a hotel room, standing on beds and chairs spit-

ting poems in an informal “third round.”

The bonding, Gallagher explained, is due to the fact that most poets are up on stage revealing extremely personal details about their life in the course of three minutes. Before you’ve even talked to another poet, you may know things about them that people they’ve known for years don’t even know.

Most importantly, it’s about “being around a bunch of people who are excited about writing,” said Goldberg-Safir. Such people are in no short supply at Middlebury, but there aren’t many existing ways for them to come together outside the classroom, and that’s why they want to continue Poor Form poetry next year, choosing a team to represent the College for the year and inviting other colleges for slams. Keep your eyes and ears peeled.

FOR THE record



by Zach Blair

Artist | The Pains of Being Close at Heart

Album | *Belong*

Musically speaking, 2009 was a dying year. But thanks to a team of indie superheroes including Animal Collective, Passion Pit and The Dirty Projectors, humanity was saved from the soul-sucking clutches of Susan Boyle and auto-tune. Although no definitive list of music’s heroes exists, one thing’s for certain: no indie Justice League would be complete without the hot and fuzzy eponymous debut of The Pains of Being Pure at Heart.

Two years later, the Pains are back with their sophomore effort, *Belong*. Just as loud and twee as their debut, *Belong* exhibits the same indebtedness to 90s dream pop and shoegaze that the band has always worn on its sleeve. Of course, this comes as no surprise, especially considering their collaboration with British producers Flood and Alan Moulder (acclaimed for their work with The Jesus and Mary Chain, My Bloody Valentine and The Smashing Pumpkins). In other words, you can expect this album to be chock-full of ear-splitting guitars, wispy vocals and infectious melodies.

And that’s exactly what you get. After 15 seconds of mock delicacy, the title track explodes into a whirl of distortion and breathy intimations of adolescent love. Refusing to settle down, the album races from the rumbling bass and cheesy synths of highlight “Heart in Your Heartbreak” to the groovy swirl and breakneck beat of “The Body.” But halfway through the album, the Pains offer a bit of respite from all the thunder. The jangly guitars and swelling chorus of “Anne With an E” begin the soft descent, while “Even In Dreams,” at once confident and vulnerable, sounds like a hard rock cover of a slow-dance scene from some mid-80s Molly Ringwald movie.

One of the distinguishing features about The Pains of Being Pure at Heart is lead singer Kip Berman’s boyish innocence and shrouded delivery. Ever faithful to his shoegaze roots, Berman views his voice as yet another texture in the mix, and although he has unearthed his vocals from the reverb-soaked trenches of their debut, he’s still nearly indecipherable. When you finally figure out what he’s saying, you notice how his child-like croon often belies his dark, melancholic subject matter. Sex, drugs and adolescent fears and desires pervade his lyrics, as heard on “Girl of 1,000 Dreams,” another of *Belong*’s highlights: “Held my breath, thought of death and things I’d like to do ‘til then: See my friends, lose my head, wake up with you in my bed.” Thanks to Berman’s earnest and youthful delivery, these emotionally charged lyrics never cross over into over-sentimental babble.

So how exactly have the Pains progressed over the past two years? And what’s the difference between *Belong* and their debut, *The Pains of Being Pure at Heart*, anyway? Well, for one, *Belong* is a more mature album, leaving the band more streamlined and polished without having sold its soul. Their more profound dynamic shifts, for example, allow for subtler verses and more arresting choruses. But for the most part, The Pains of Being Pure at Heart are still the same old twee-pop band that saved the day in 2009. Mighty guitar riffs and saccharine hooks still abound, and their albums still deserve to be cranked up to 11. Let’s hope those aspects never change.

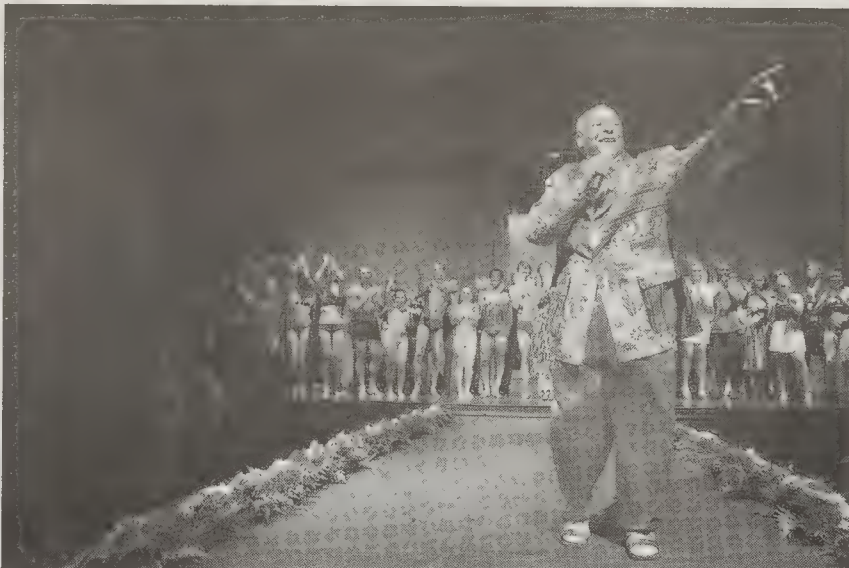
AFRICAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE FASHION SHOW

PHOTOS BY SOPHEAK CHHENG

Below: Dustin Schwartz ’11 strikes a pose.

Top right: The student models from the “body paint” portion of the show come out for a final pose at the end of their segment.

Bottom right: Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence Francois Clemmons MC’s enthusiastically.



Midd alum reflects on Earth Day

By Deirdre Sackett
ARTS EDITOR

An Earth Day celebration at the Town Hall Theater on April 16 explored how writers and songwriters throughout the centuries have thought about our relationship to the planet. *Natural Selections: An Earth Day Celebration in Prose and Song* featured folk-singer Geoff Kaufman ’69 alongside Assistant Professor of English and American Literature Dan Brayton’s Spring ’11 “Nature’s Meanings” class as they read excerpts from writers such as Thoreau, Henry Beston, Aldo Leopold, Annie Dillard, Gretel Ehrlich, Farley Mowat and N. Scott Momaday. The dialogue was broken up by traditional songs chosen by Kaufman to compliment the writings. Each song and each snippet of writing praised the beauty and majesty of planet Earth, both from a historical and personal point of view. Songs included “Just a Little Rain” by Malvina Reynolds, “Last Leviathan” by Andy Barnes and an original piece by Kaufman entitled “Gold to Silver.” The highlight of the show, however, was not any particular song, but a short impersonation

of Mark Twain by Kaufman. The monologue had Twain comparing an anaconda to an Earl, commenting on the Earl’s brutality and the anaconda’s decency when it came time to kill another living being for food.

In addition to Kaufman, the performance featured Nora Daly ’13, Zach Doleac ’12, Stu Fram ’13, Will Ford ’12, Fielding Jenks ’13, Juliana Kay ’13, Liia Koiv-Haus ’13, Claire Lewandowski ’13, Rachel Madding ’13, Molly Rose-Williams ’13 and Annika Silverman ’13. Each student read excerpts or notable quotes from famous writings. Lewandowski served as the performance’s “narrator,” helping intertwine Kaufman’s songs with the students’ orations.

Kaufman turned to folk music in 1975 after completing graduate studies at Rutgers. He became a founding member of *Stout*, a quartet that sang in downtown Manhattan during the 1976 bicentennial celebration. Soon afterward, Kaufman discovered the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater*, built by Pete Seeger and friends to draw attention to environmental issues and by 1977 Geoff was a member of

the Sloop Singers, performing with Pete and an inspiring collection of activist musicians. This *Clearwater* experience led to Kaufman’s acclaimed 1992 live recording, *Tree of Life*. Kaufman’s maritime music brought him to Mystic Seaport where he became Director of Music Programs for 15 years. It was there that he met Brayton, who at the time was teaching maritime literature for the Williams/Mystic Program. For five years, Kaufman has been returning to Middlebury to sing for Brayton’s classes as well as in concerts.

Three years ago when Brayton offered his “Nature’s Meanings” class, Kaufman was inspired by the readings required for the class, and chose to base the performance’s repertoire off of the class’ syllabus. On Saturday night, he tapped into an awe-inspiring synergy between the class’ prose and his own lyrics — it was evident that his heart was deeply invested in this undertaking. As a result, the audience came away with a deeper, enduring understanding of their relationship with Earth, which, in the end, was one of Kaufman’s goals.

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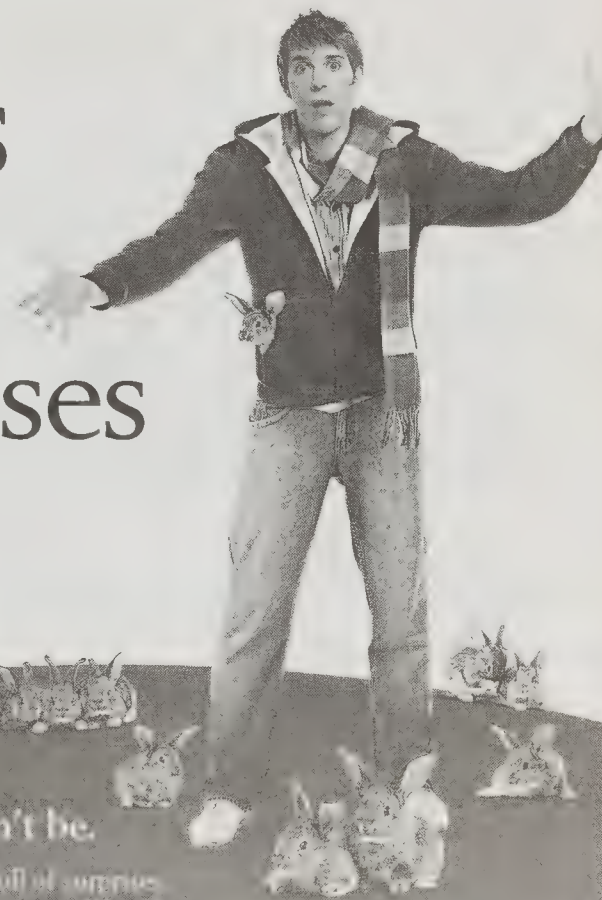
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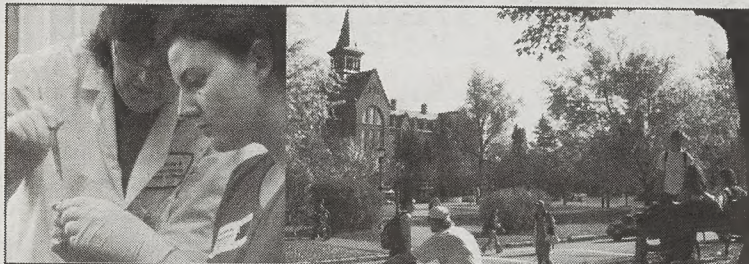
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Golf teams face crazy weather

By Alex Edel
SPORTS EDITOR

In their second tournament of the spring season, the men's team came away with a win, while the women's team placed fifth out of 13 teams. Battling wind and rain, the women's team competed at Amherst College and the men's team competed at Hamilton College.

Placing in the top spot for the Panther men was captain Jimmy Levins '11 in third place with a score of 77 for the day. Just one stroke behind was Andrew Emerson '13 in fourth place at 78 strokes. Rounding out in the top eight was William Prince '13 in fifth place with a score of 79 and Max Alley '14 in eighth place with a score of 80. Brian Cady '14 finished off for the team in 11th place shooting an 81. From Levins third place finish to Cady's 11th place finish there was only a difference of five strokes indicating how close this day of golf was for the competitors.

This one-day tournament took place under extremely harsh conditions. In an outdoor sport like golf the uncontrollable weather has definite effect on the players performance. According to Levins, this is something that the team has to deal with especially in the spring.

"We played in some of the toughest conditions we will probably see this year, gusting

winds, rain and even some hail," said Levins. "I was very impressed with how the team stuck it out and got the job done. Playing in tough conditions is something we're going to see a lot of in the spring, and we learn what adjustments we have to make, in terms of shot selection and mental approach, when the weather isn't perfect."

The girls fought against the same weather this past weekend at Amherst. Flora Weeks '12 led the Panther women in fifth place with a score of 162. Caroline Kenter '14 followed in 34th place, shooting 179 for the weekend. Only one stroke behind was Jessica Bluestein '14 in 35th place with a score of 180. Rounding out the Panthers was Keeley Levins '13 shooting a 182 and placing 37th.

The women's team has next week off before their final regular season tournament at Williams on April 30 and May 1. The men's team will travel to Williams next weekend before hosting the NESCAC championships the following weekend.

Although last weekend's weather was not the best the men are looking forward to next weekend.

"We're looking forward to next weekend at Williams where we'll look to keep going in the right direction," said Levins.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD				
Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
4/15 4/16	Baseball	Wesleyan	12-7 W 6-0 L 11-10 L	Baseball was unable to continue their hot NESCAC start, dropping two of three at home to Wesleyan.
4/16	Women's lacrosse	Trinity	11-10 L	Women's lacrosse continued to struggle against top 20 teams, this time losing to third-ranked Trinity.
4/16	Men's lacrosse	Trinity	12-8 W	Men's lacrosse won their third in a row, taking down the Bantams on the road.
4/15 4/16	Softball	Hamilton	6-0 W	Softball stayed hot with a sweep of the Continentals, improving to 17-4 on the season.
4/16 4/17	Men's tennis	Bowdoin Bates	5-4 W 8-1 W	The top-ranked Panthers won the Maine state championship last weekend, defeating both the Polar Bears and the Bobcats.

BY THE NUMBERS	
36	Number of runs scored by softball in 17 innings of play against Hamilton this weekend.
5	Number of penalty kicks made by Men's Rugby scrum-half Brian Sirkia '12.5 in the MCRC's round of 16 win over St. Joseph's.
5	Number of runs Wesleyan scored in the ninth inning on Saturday to defeat baseball in the third game of their series.
1	Number of strokes men's golf won the Hamilton Quadrangle by on Saturday, 314-315 over second-place SUNY Delhi.
8	Number of goals men's lacrosse player Andrew Connor '11 scored last week, earning him NESCAC player of the week honors.

Editors' Picks				
Questions	Alyssa O'Gallagher	Brooks Coe	Dillon Hupp	Alex Edel
How many matches will men's tennis drop to Skidmore on Saturday?	NONE Sorry I'm not sorry.	ONE They dropped one to Bates and they're a good comparison for Skidmore	NONE Top ranked = no losses.	NONE They didn't lose any games last year and I think they can do the same this year.
Will Nick Angstman '11 win his start against Hamilton this weekend?	YES But I don't actually know who he is.	YES Hamilton is not an imposing opponent.	YES If we can't beat Hamilton, we've got serious problems.	YES Overall I think we can beat out Hamilton.
Who beats Tufts by more — men's or women's lacrosse?	WOMEN'S Get it, girls, get it.	WOMEN Tufts' men's lax team is pretty dirty, that's a tough matchup.	WOMEN Because they've got Sally Ryan '11.	WOMEN The men lost to Tufts last year and the women won.
Will track and field finish in the top 5 at the Middlebury Invitational on Saturday?	YES Home (track and) field advantage.	OF COURSE At least I certainly hope so.	YES Can't let the opposition run all over our home turf (get it?)	YES They have been doing well recently.
Will the Miami Heat have finished off the Philadelphia 76ers by next Monday?	YES But who cares?	NO They'd have to win the next two as well — I'm guessing the 76ers nab one of them.	YES This might be the most mismatched series in the playoffs. The 76ers just can't hang.	YES The Heat can beat out the 76ers in two games no problem.
Career Record	88-73 (.547)	43-60 (.417)	58-45 (.563)	21-19 (.525)

Men's tennis edges out Bowdoin, dominates Bates on weekend

By Damon Hatheway
STAFF WRITER

The men's tennis team defended their number one ranking over the weekend by completing a two-game sweep over their Maine rivals Bowdoin and Bates. On Saturday, the Panthers defeated 14th-ranked Bowdoin 5-4 before trouncing the number 21 team in the country, Bates, 8-1 to improve to 14-1 overall and 5-0 in NESCAC for the season.

While the final score of the Bowdoin match suggested a tight win for the Panthers, the team got off to a 5-1 lead, sealing the victory early before dropping the last three matches to win by the score of 5-4. Head coach Rob Barr was particularly pleased with the way his team overcame adversity in the match against the rival Polar Bears.

"I was really impressed by our performance and toughness this weekend," Barr said. "The match against Bowdoin was interesting for several reasons. Everyone had to play up a spot in the lineup as Derrick Angle '12 was out with an illness. Bowdoin had a huge crowd on hand, and temperatures never went above 39 degrees with swirling winds."

Despite missing one of their tri-captains in Angle, the Panthers overcame the elements to take five of the first six

matches. Brantner Jones '14 and Andrew Peters '11 led the way for Middlebury in their match against Bowdoin as they registered three of the team's five wins.

The 21st-ranked doubles team of Jones and Peters improved their record to 7-0 on the season as they downed Steven Sullivan and Sam King of Bowdoin 8-6. Spencer Lunghino '13 and David Farah '12 also provided an early doubles win for the Panthers with an 8-4 victory over Bowdoin from the second doubles position. After taking two of the three doubles matches, Middlebury split the six single matches with the Polar Bears. Peters, the 10th-ranked singles player in the country, made easy work of a potentially tough match with 15th-ranked singles player Stephen Sullivan. Peters took down Sullivan in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2. Jones and James Burke '14 rounded out the other two singles wins for the top-ranked Panthers.

If the Panthers performance on Saturday at Bowdoin was impressive, they were even better on Sunday at Bates. Facing the 21st-ranked team in the country, the Panthers blew by the Bobcats 8-1. Surprisingly the lone loss came from the number one doubles team as Peters and Jones lost for the first time this season, falling to the Bobcats Matt Bettles and Rob Crampton 8-4. The Panthers dropped

just two sets on the afternoon and after his first loss in doubles play this season Peters rebounded with a dominant win in the first singles position.

"The match against Bates was one of our better playing performances as a team," said head coach Rob Barr. "Andy Peters was simply awesome in his match against nationally ranked Matt Bettles of Bates 6-0, 6-1, but everyone in the lineup looked very sharp."

The Panthers host 28th-ranked Skidmore on Saturday and ninth-ranked Williams on Sunday. The Ephs delivered Middlebury's last NESCAC loss, on April 9, 2008 in a match at Williams. The Panthers head into the weekend with a sixty-five match unbeaten streak at home. The Ephs are 8-5 on the season, but are playing their best tennis recently as they swept Wesleyan and Connecticut College 9-0 over the

weekend. They also pushed third-ranked Amherst to a 5-4 result, but ultimately came up short.

"We prepare for two very tough teams this weekend," coach Barr said.

The Panthers will finish off the regular season at Amherst on April 30. The NESCAC Tournament will start the weekend after. Last year the team steamed past both Trinity and Williams to win the NESCAC championships before moving on to the NCAA tournament.

After easily beating out Skidmore, MIT and N.C. Wesleyan, they were able to barely scrape out a 5-4 win against Wash. Univ. to advance to the NCAA Championships. In the Championships they beat out NESCAC rivals Amherst 5-1. Winning NCAA has set a sense of prestige for the Panthers who so far this season are 14-1, losing only to Azusa Pacific during spring break.

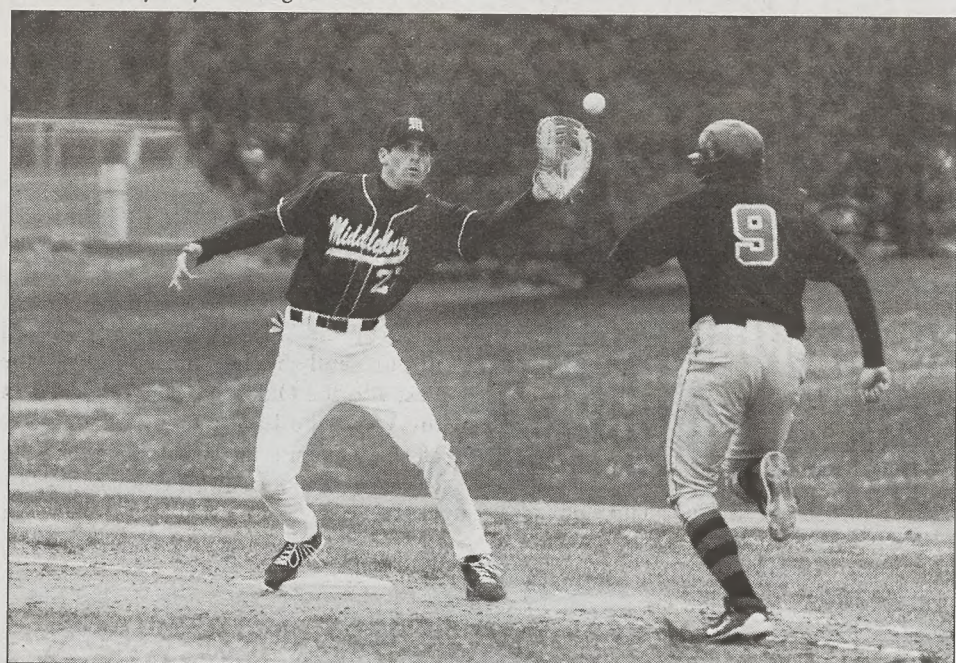
Panthers drop two of three games to Wesleyan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

game, but fared no better than Scott. The next Wesleyan batter struck a two-RBI single, and a fielder's choice gave the Cardinals the late-game lead. Middlebury was unable to rally the next inning, and Wesleyan walked away with a series that they very well might have lost if not

for some crucial Panther mistakes.

Middlebury will look to improve their NESCAC-record this weekend against perennial conference cellar-dweller Hamilton. If the Panthers can follow the softball team's lead and sweep the Continentals, they still have a decent shot of making the postseason this year.



Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor

Michael Morris '13 reaches for the ball to beat the Cardinal runner to the bag at first.

Track and field takes on Big Green and UVM in Hanover

By Maggie Moslander
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury Track and Field Team competed in a rare Sunday meet this past weekend in Hanover, N.H., competing against Dartmouth and the University of Vermont. The Panthers finished third, only six points behind second-place UVM, a Division I school. Several runners gave impressive performances at the meet. For the women's team, four runners won their events. Senior Annie Rowell '11 took home the 100m dash, and sophomore Juliet Ryan-Davis '13 gave an impressive performance in the 400m, winning with a time of 58.38. She also gave the Panthers a third place finish in the 200m. Showing the Panther's depth at all distances, first-year Madie Hubbell '14 won the women's 5000m with a time of 18:20.95. Rounding out the four first-place finishes was sophomore Emily Dodge '13, who won the long jump with a distance of 17'5.25."

Other notable performances were given by Erin Toner '11, who came in third in the 800m, and junior Mia Martinez '12, who came up with a third-place finish in the 100m hurdles. The Middlebury Women's 4 x 400m relay team, made up of tri-captain Christina Kunycky '11, Toner, Rebecca Fanning '12 and Ryan-Davis also had a great day, running a time of 4:03.90 and coming in third.

Senior tri-captain Alice Wisener '11 was pleased with the team's performance in the meet, stating, "We were up against Division I teams and we were still able to compete. It was really encouraging to see such a great performance by the team."

On the men's side, sophomore Stuart

Fram '13 gave the team a big win, bagging a first place finish in the 110m hurdles with a time of 15.47. First year Peter Hetzler '14 pulled through for the team with two second place finishes, in the 200m and the 400m races. Finishing immediately behind Hetzler for the third place finish in the 400m was Ethan Mann '12. Sophomore Jack Davies '13 also ran an impressive race in the 1500, coming in second with a time of 3:57.80, and senior Donny Dickson '11 rounded out the quartet of second-place finishes in the 3000m steeplechase with a time of 9:37.80. In an impressive display of teamwork, the men's 4 x 100m relay team, made up of first-years Kevin Chu '14, Hetzler, Jason Jan '12 and Dan Bent '13 took first place.

Though it was not the team's best overall meet, it did give them a chance to go up against stiff Division I competition and hold their own; both the men's and women's teams showed their depth and strength this weekend. With NESCAC Championships a mere two weeks away, the team is looking strong and confident and poised for an impressive showing. The team will have a last chance to fine-tune their skills at next week's meet, the only one at home this season, so look for some great performances as the Panthers put on a show for a hometown audience. Runners like Davies, who was recently named player of the week in the NESCAC, will look to continue to build off of the strong starts they have established so fall this spring season. After the stirring success of both the men's and women's cross-country teams last fall, Middlebury track and field should be anxious to continue our new-found dominance of all sports running related.

Men's lacrosse wins three straight in high scoring games

By Galen Carroll
STAFF WRITER

Quieted somewhat by the drizzling rain, the usually boisterous, sun-dressed Trinity Spring Weekend crowd looked on in dismay as David Hild '11 and Co. ran off four straight scores in the fourth quarter to keep the Bantams at bay, 12-8, in NESCAC action last Saturday.

With their third consecutive victory the Panthers, ranked No. 11 nationally, improve to 8-2 on the season. While Hild tallied four goals on the afternoon, his last serving as a metaphorical 'nail in the coffin', his performance did not overshadow fellow senior Andrew Conner '11 who notched three goals and one assist. For his efforts Conner was named the NESCAC Player of the Week; a well deserved accolade for the mid-fielder who found the back of the net five times in Middlebury's midweek double overtime win

against Skidmore.

With a searing shot from 15-yards out on the right flank, Trinity sophomore mid-fielder Stephen Manning pulled Trinity within striking range at 8-7 with 10:28 left in the game. Middlebury's own sophomore Billy Chapman '13 responded in kind, beginning a four-goal scoring run that Trinity would be unable to recover from. Alex Englert '12 and Hild added insurance goals as time ran down.

In a refreshing departure from the status quo, Middlebury raked out 16 of the 23 faceoffs taken, including 12 of 18 by Brian Foster '13. Peter Jennings '12 quickness and doggedness in between the lines, along with Chapman's game-high six ground balls, created opportunities in transition opportunities that Timmy Cahill '12 (two goals) and Mike Giordano '13 (one goal) took advantage of in the offensive zone. Co-captain

goalkeeper Ryan Deane '11 was an anchor in the net with seven saves.

As usual, the defense played with composure, as they have proven themselves to be a formidable force week in and week out. As a unit they were able to close gaps on the inside that the Trinity players exploited early in the game. They played disciplined, hard-nosed on-ball defense. Henry Clark '12 praised the play of several up and coming underclassmen.

"Longsticks Chapman and Darric White '14 stepped up and made a number of clutch plays when we needed them the most. Both have the ability to make an impact on the field in the coming weeks."

The Panthers return to action against Rensselaer at home this Tuesday. All eyes are set on their upcoming game against last year's National Champions, Tufts, on Saturday, April 23.



File Photo, Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor
Standout seniors have led the Panthers to victory on the field thus far this season.

Softball sees success continue into season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Sarah Boylan '13 to come home.

In the third inning, Middlebury pulled away from Hamilton with three runs on four hits, with Crawford, Margel, Constantin and Burbridge each putting runners on the bases. The Panthers slowed down in the fourth inning, with no runs and no hits, but really brought it home in the fifth and final inning, with an incredible nine runs on six hits and three errors.

The Panthers came on strong in the second game, with Jessa Hoffman '13 smacking a home run right off the bat. Constantin '11 followed that up with a double, sophomore Jessica Poracky hit a single, and senior Kelsey Chisholm rounded out the inning with a single as well.

The Panthers continued to gain momentum, scoring seven runs on four hits and two errors in the second inning, three in the fourth, and two in the fifth.

Sophomore Jessa Hoffman was named

NESCAC player of the week this week for her achievements against Hamilton and throughout the season. She hit .526, and slugged .947. This week alone, she hit five doubles and a home run for the Panthers.

SOFTBALL	
Friday, April 15	
Middlebury	6
Hamilton	0
Saturday, April 16	
Middlebury	14
Hamilton	2
Saturday, April 16	
Middlebury	16
Hamilton	0

She scored nine runs, drove in four and had an on-base mark of .591. She scored 8 runs and hit three doubles this weekend against the Continentals.

With this hot start, Middlebury soft-

ball is poised to make noise on the national stage as they have never before. At the very least, they will be able to put themselves in excellent position to make a run deep into the postseason. It's not just that softball is winning, it's the way they are winning — with a level of dominance in all phases of the game that leaves their opponents scratching their heads week in and week out.

Up next for the Lady Panthers is a home game against Lyndon State at 3:30 pm and again at 5:30 pm on April 19, followed by a double header at Union on April 20, three home games against Amherst (at 5:00 pm on April 22, 12:00 pm on April 23 and again at 2:00 pm on the 23rd), a double header at home against Plymouth State on April 25 at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm, and a double header at home against Skidmore on April 27 at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm.

How will the playoffs play out?

By Damon Hatheway, Staff Writer

These are the most compelling NBA playoffs since Michael Jordan won his final championship with the Chicago Bulls in 1998. Despite an impending lockout that could negate the 2011-2012 NBA season, the league is thriving thanks to a group of young, likeable superstars, great storylines and enticing matchups throughout the playoffs. From Kobe's rabid pursuit of his sixth title and a second Lakers three-peat to the first meaningful Knicks-Celtics series of this millennium, the 2011 playoffs have the potential to be historic.

While the NBA's star players headline the playoffs, this postseason carries extra significance because many teams stand to gain and lose so much based on their performance. Can the Thunder achieve NBA greatness in a small market? Will the Heat's offseason moves bring a championship to South Beach? Or will an early exit make them the target of the media for a second consecutive summer? Can the Spurs hold off father time once more for their fifth title in the Tim Duncan era? And of course, can Kobe match Jordan with his sixth title?

Above all, the playoffs will have a huge impact on the future of how teams choose to build through free agency. Postseason success for the Knicks after their midseason acquisition of Carmelo Anthony or a championship for the Heat post "Decision" would validate the belief that you can pool together multiple superstars and make an instant championship run. On the other hand, anything short of a Finals appearance for the Heat will tarnish the legacy LeBron has built so far in his young career. Widely regarded as the best player in the league right now, the one they call "King James" is still searching for his first NBA title, and with his superfriends Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, he has as good a chance as ever to take home the hardware this postseason. In his way stand a group of teams that believe that it takes more than a collective group of All-Stars to win an NBA championship.

The San Antonio Spurs have proven over-and-over again the importance of team chemistry in basketball during the Tim Duncan era. This has been corroborated by the "Big Three" in Boston and most recently by the Chicago Bulls in the East and the Oklahoma City Thunder in the West who have modeled themselves after the giants in their conferences to great success thus far. In particular the Thunder have provided a blueprint for small market basketball teams to successfully build through the NBA draft and thriftily in free agency.

Meanwhile, teams like the New Jersey Nets, Houston Rockets and Los Angeles Clippers, who will be some of the more active teams in free agency this summer, watch with the rest of the NBA to figure out the best way to build a championship caliber basketball team.

Two radically different schools of thought are going head-to-head in the postseason and the result may have a drastic affect on the future of the NBA. If LeBron James wins his first NBA Championship in Miami the exodus of NBA stars to big market teams will continue. But if the Heat fall at the hands of the team-first Boston Celtics or to the young Bulls led by the selfless play of Derrick Rose, then the belief that team chemistry trumps gluttonous talent will be vindicated.

All we can do now is wait and see.

Women's tennis adds two wins to tally

By Alex Edel
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's tennis team traveled to Maine this weekend for a pair of away wins. These victories will advance the 10th ranked Panthers to five game winning streak and an 8-1 record.

The weekend started at Bowdoin College where they defeated the Polar Bears 6-3. In the number one singles spot, Victoria Aiello '12 lost in two hard fought sets to Bowdoin's Kellen Alberstone. Despite the loss at the number one spot, the Panthers were able to capture the second, third and fourth singles spots. Leah Kepping '13 won 6-3, 6-2 in the number two spot against Emily Lombardi. Brittany Faber '13 played two extremely close sets against Emma Lewis winning 7-5 in both.

In the number four singles spot was Sally Wilkey '12 who beat out her opponent 6-4, 6-4. Chantalle Lavetu was able to beat out Anna Burke '12 for a win at the number 5 singles spot. Rounding out the singles matches was Dorrie Paradies '14 who beat out her opponent in an extremely close match.

The first set went to Paradies, 6-1, but what could by that set seem to be an easy win was turned around in the second set when Susanna Howard outplayed Paradies, winning 3-6. Despite the loss in the second set Paradies came out with a well earned win in the third set, winning 7-6.

Middlebury's doubles teams went 2-1 with Bowdoin's double teams. Alberstone

and Kate Winingham of Bowdoin were able to beat the Panther's number one team comprised of Kepping and Faber, in a close 9-7 match. Aiello and Burke teamed up at the number two doubles spot, to beat out Lombardi and Lewis 8-5. At the number three spot were Wilkey and Paradies who beat out there opponents, Lavetu and Hannah Hoerner 8-6.

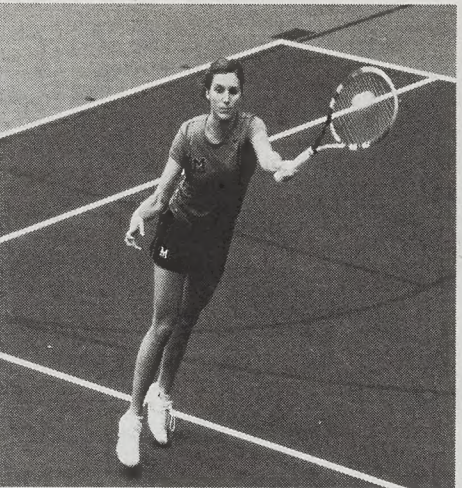
After some hard fought matches at Bowdoin, the team traveled to Bates on Sunday where they were able to sweep them 9-0. At the number one, two and three spot the matches were one in an easy two sets, none giving up more than three games to their opponents. In the number four and five singles spots Paradies and Whitney Hanson '11 won in hard fought matches.

Paradies played at the number four spot against Erika Blauth. Despite an easy 6-3 win in the first set, it was only after three tiebreakers that Paradies pulled ahead of Blauth to win 7-6 in the final set. Hanson won her first match by just one game, 7-6, but was able to pull away in the second match winning 6-2 to beat out Nicole Russell.

The team played Williams at home on Wednesday but scores were not available at press time. The team will have three more NESCAC matches before the beginning of the NESCAC tournament on May 6. The women will be playing on the road at Tufts on Friday. The following weekend they have two matches back to back at home.

On Saturday the team will play Skidmore on Saturday and Amherst on Sunday.

Unlike this year, last year the team played Skidmore early in the season and beat them out 8-1. However they will play Amherst last this season just as they did last season. In their last game before the start of the NESCAC tournament the Panthers lost in a very close match 5-4 before beating out Bowdoin in the NESCAC quarterfinals at Amherst. The team then fell in the semifinals to Wililams 5-1. Despite this loss the team advanced to the NCAA regionals before ending their season. The Panthers will look to improve on last year's result with the end of this season.



Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor
Women's tennis has been hot on the court lately.

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	4/14	Team	Dillon's Discourses
1	1	Men's tennis (14-1)	Can't lose the number one spot if you don't lose any games. It must be the mustache.
2	5	Men's lacrosse (8-2)	Senior leadership has this team riding a winning streak into the home stretch of the season.
3	3	Softball (17-4)	The girls absolutely destroyed Hamilton's souls last weekend in a dominating three-game sweep.
4	2	Women's tennis (8-1)	Quietly dominating the women's tennis scene, helping make Middlebury tennis central in Division III.
5	8	Men's golf	Taking first place at something called the Hamilton Quadrangle. It gets them into the Great Eight.
6	4	Women's lacrosse (7-4)	They'll need to do better against the big dogs like Trinity if they want to make a run in the NESCAC tournament.
7	—	Men's rugby	They dominated in Florida, taking down St. Joe's and USF to advance to the DII national final four.
8	—	Women's water polo	The girls turned the pool into a hot tub, taking home the North Atlantic Championship.

— Damon Hatheway '13 is a staff writer from London, England. How he knows so much about American sports is beyond his editors.

Women's lacrosse taken out in Bantams' undefeated tear

By Jamie Burchfield

STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury Panthers faced a tough 11-10 loss against the Trinity Bantams this past Saturday on Kohn Field. The third-ranked Bantams improve to an undefeated 11-0 season and 7-0 in the NESCAC league. The eighth-ranked Panthers now stand at 7-4 overall and 4-3 in NESCAC play. Lucy Jackson '12 recognizes the highly competitive nature of the NESCAC league.

"Every year there is more and more parity in our league, and as every team's level of play continues to rise, every NESCAC match up is really about who shows up on game day, for all 60 minutes, and does the little things right."

It was certainly a battle between the two teams as there were seven lead changes throughout the contest. Jackson commented, "a couple more possessions and it would have been a different game." The Panthers were trailing 3-2, but

retaliated with three straight goals in order to take a 5-3 lead. The Bantams fired back with two more goals before Margaret Souther '13 netted her second goal of the game with 4:42 left in the game to put the score at 6-5 going into half time. The Bantams came out strong in the second half, scoring four out of the five first goals.

Steph Gill '12 commented, "They came out really strong after the half, but we were ready to fight back."

Captain Chase Delano '11 put the Panthers on the board with a free position goal at the 24:10 mark putting the score at 7-7. The Bantams retaliated with two more goals before Ellen Hall '13 scored a pair of goals of her own in under two minutes.

Trinity put in two goals giving them an 11-9 lead with 9:32 left in the game. Souther dodged a defender to score her third goal of the game at 8:36 making it a one-goal game.

Trinity capitalized on

Middlebury's three yellow cards in the last four minutes to secure their victory.

"The game was ours to take but we couldn't pull it out in the end," said Struthers. "We put together two decent halves, but in the end we made some little mistakes that had big consequences," said Halle.

Halle and Souther each scored three goals for the Panthers, while Sally Ryan '11 added a pair of their own. Halle and Delano earned two assists apiece, while Ryan caused five turnovers. Lily Nguyen '12 finished the game with seven saves for the Panthers.

"It definitely wasn't for a lack of effort that we lost," said Halle. "We will be working hard to tie up the loose ends of our game this week." The Panthers will face Skidmore and Tufts later this week hoping to finish the season with a winning streak.

The team will play Skidmore today at home at 5 pm. They then play Tufts on Saturday and



Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor

Co-captain Sally Ryan '11 netted two in the Panthers' close loss to Trinity. Williams next Friday on the road to complete their regular season play before the start of NESCAC Championship play. Last year, the team had a similar record finishing off the year 8-7. Despite beating out Williams in the last game of the season, the Panthers were beaten out of the NESCAC tournament by third-seeded Colby in the quarterfinals. Their season ended in a close 9-8 loss to the Mules on their home court. This time around, Middlebury will look to finish off the regular season in a stronger position in order to get a more favorable playoff seed, and in doing so hope to advance deeper into the postseason and make good on their disappointing first-round exit from last year.



File Photo, Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor

The Panthers swept Hamilton, shutting them out in two of three games.

Softball sails to 17-4, winning five in a row

By Brigit Carlson

STAFF WRITER

The Lady Panthers flattened Hamilton, scoring 30 runs with only 27 hits on Saturday. The Middlebury Women's Softball team record now stands at 17-4 overall, and 8-1 for NESCAC West. They have been on a winning streak, winning nine games in the past few weeks.

Against the Continentals, the Panthers score 14-2 in their first game, and then 16-0 in the second. The Panthers' prowess on the field cut both games short at five innings because of an eight-run mercy rule. The wins against Hamilton this weekend puts Middlebury Softball on top of the NESCAC West Division, and in the playoffs for the first time since

2005.

Jessa Hoffman '13 started the first inning of the first game for the Panthers, hitting a single down the left side, followed by Leslie Crawford '11 with a groundball to third base, allowing Hoffman take second. Megan Margel '11 hit a double down center field, allowing Hoffman to cross home plate, scoring the first of many runs for the Panthers this past weekend.

Geena Constantin '11 and Emma Katz '13 also got hits in the first inning. Hamilton College answered with a run of its own, but was quickly shut down in the second inning by Emily Burbridge's '11 homer, allowing

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 23

Baseball weathers rough Saturday

By Dillon Hupp

STAFF WRITER

On a chilly, windy Saturday in Vermont, the Middlebury College baseball team saw their postseason hopes take a severe hit at the hands of the Wesleyan Cardinals, who took both games of a double-header to win the overall series two games to three. The loss dropped the Panthers to 5-4 in NESCAC play, and 8-9 overall on the year.

The series had started off optimistically enough for Middlebury, who scored six runs in their half of the first inning to take a 6-2 lead early in the contest. In the second inning, the Panthers were able to add to the lead thanks to a Joe Conway '13 homer to left field and a Michael Morris '13 RBI single. After Wesleyan chased Middlebury starter Nick Angstman '11 in the top of the fourth with the score at 10-7, Andy Dittrich took the mound and calmed things down, going two and a third innings without allowing a run. Captain Donnie McKillop '11 and Zach Roeder '12 both added RBIs in the bottom of the sixth, rounding out the scoring for the Panthers. Tyler Buckingham '13 and John Popkowski '13 finished the game off for Middlebury, refusing to allow a run between the two of them.

Poised to make some serious noise in the NESCAC west standings with a good performance Saturday, the Panthers instead saw their early-season momentum slip through their gloves, as they dropped both ends of a Saturday double-header in very different but similarly frustrating fashion.

In game one, the Panthers struggled in all phases of the game en route to a 6-0 loss. Wesleyan starter Brett Yasuri dominated the game, striking out two and walking only one in a complete-game shut-

out of Middlebury. The Cardinals scored methodically, adding two runs apiece in the second, fourth, and seventh innings, and were helped at times by Panther fielding errors, which might have been the deciding factors in the game were Middlebury able to muster any runs of their own. Roeder, Thomas Driscoll '13, and Alex Kelly '14 were the only Middlebury batsmen to muster hits in the game, while Michael Joseph '13 went seven tough innings and took the complete game loss, his second on the year.

The second game of the double-feature was much more interesting, but equally demoralizing for the Panthers, as they squandered a 10-6 lead in the ninth inning to allow Wesleyan to take the game 11-10. The game started as though it would be another dominating Cardinal performance, as the visitors were able to plate four runs in their half of the first. However, this time Middlebury was able to strike back, scoring once in the bottom of the first and then six times in the home half of the second. This time around the Cardinals were helping the Pan-

thers, as Middlebury used two errors and a walk along with a Roeder two-run single for their scoring opportunities. Middlebury added two more in the fourth and another in the sixth while allowing Wesleyan to score twice more in the middle innings to take a 10-6 lead going into the ninth inning. That's when things went downhill quicker than a Dirk van Duym '12 fastball. Starter John Wiet '13, who had settled down after the rough first inning, started the inning for Middlebury, looking to post the complete-game victory. However, after he allowed three consecutive singles, he was pulled in favor of Scooter Scott '11. Scott struck out the first batter he faced, but allowed a single to the next, making the score 10-7 and keeping the bases loaded with only one out. Then, the Panthers were unable to turn a game-ending double play, committing an error and allowing the Cardinals to cut the lead to 10-8. Popkowski then took over on the mound, looking to record the save and end the

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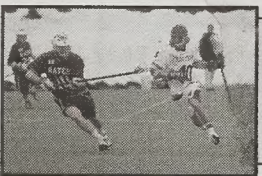
Andrew Podrygula, Photos Editor

Zach Roeder '12 was four for five in the Panthers' one run loss to Wesleyan.

this week in sports

Men's Lacrosse

The men's offense leads the Panthers to victory yet again, pg 26.



games to watch

Women's lacrosse vs. Skidmore, Today at 5 p.m.
Middlebury Invitational, Saturday, TBA



Women's Tennis

The Panthers continue to make mince meat of all opponents, pg 27.